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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

MISSISSAUGA | BRAMPTON | CALEDON

Apr. 15, 2021

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
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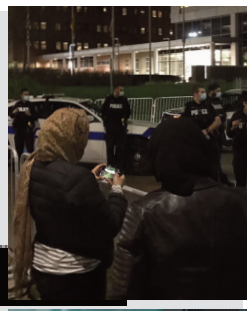
Apr. 15, 2021

Seven arrested in protest over police-involved shooting
NEWS Pg 6



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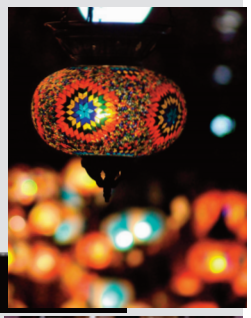

Virtual gala unveils a "Holi" experience for guests
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Experience Food, Health, Travel and more!
SPECIAL Pg 40-48

by **Alex Gregory**

Police looking for leads in fatal weekend crash

First responders speak at the scene of a fatal crash that claimed the life of a 35 year-old Toronto man who was hit by a second vehicle while operating a motorcycle at the Eglinton and Matheson intersection. Police are asking for residents with video or dashcam footage to call police. (Kyle Taylor/LivingByYYZ/Twitter

The driver of a vehicle that struck a motorcyclist late Saturday night is still at large, and police are looking for public assistance to crack the case.

First responders arrived at the corner of Matheson Boulevard East and Eglinton Avenue around 10:40 p.m. Saturday (Apr. 10) after receiving reports of a motorcycle crash.

Upon arriving at the scene, paramedics located a 35 year-old man from Toronto who was suffering from life-threatening injuries as a result of the crash, which was caused when the driver of a second vehicle made a turn into a private parking area.

Peel Police's Major Collision Bureau said the victim was sent to hospital, but succumbed to his injuries Tuesday.

Neither the victim's name nor a description of the second vehicle were available, as of press time.

While the investigation is still ongoing, police are asking any residents who may have witnessed the collision, has video surveillance, or dashcam footage in or around the intersection of Eglinton Avenue East and Matheson Boulevard between 10:30 - 10:45 p.m. to call Peel Police's Major Collision Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 3710.

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On National Day of Mourning, workplace stats remain major concern

by **Catherine Soplet**

Apr. 28 is Canada's National Day of Mourning to remember workers who have suffered work-related disability, disease and death.

"We mourn the dead, and fight for the living," says Cheryl Craig, President of Peel Regional Labour Council.

For 2021, as in 2020, observances have moved online in due to COVID-19 restrictions, and a number of events will be hosted by unions and labour councils with testimonials by families and community partners.

There are 83 Worker Memorial Monuments across Ontario situated in public park settings, including one on McLaughlin Road, near the Mississauga and Brampton border.

Health and safety law says employers must take every reasonable precaution to protect workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a deadly toll in Peel, on front-line workers.

Peel Regional Council and Mayors of Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon have put great pressure on the Ontario government to have vaccination sites allocated according to COVID-19 infection experience, especially in congregated healthcare, manufacturing, food processing and logistics settings.

Information on Peel's workplace deaths, particularly within the past year, are difficult to ascertain — made even more muddled due to confusion between COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces and affiliated deaths.

According to the Region of Peel's COVID-19 data collection page, the region has experienced 377 workplace outbreaks, with approximately 3,429 cases linked to the virus.

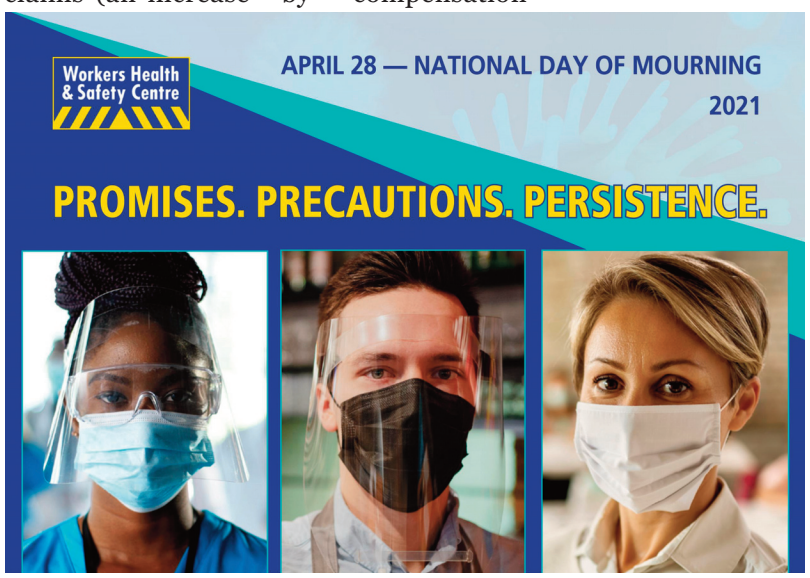
In a report released late last year, manufacturing and industrial sites made up 34 per cent of workplace outbreaks reported from Sep. - Nov. 2020; a number likely bolstered with recent outbreaks at high-profile facilities such as Canada Post's Dixie Road site and Amazon's Brampton distribution facility.

According to 2019 statistics, 925 workplace fatalities were recorded in Canada. 882 were male workers, and 43 were female workers. Among these deaths were 29 young workers aged 15-24.

The Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC) reported that in addition to these fatalities, there were 271,806 accepted claims (an increase from 264,438 the previous year) for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease. Of these, 33,615 were young workers aged 15-24.

The total number of workers impacted is even greater, according to AWCBC, because what is reported to and then accepted for funding by compensation boards is a much-vetted process.

For those wanting more information on COVID-related safety and training , visit the Workers Health and Safety Centre – COVID-19 resources at whsc.on.ca/Resources/Publications/COVID-19-Resource.



Seven arrested after Malton protest over police-involved shooting

by **Surjit Singh Flora and Alex Gregory**

Seven protestors were arrested during a demonstration that turned heated this past weekend.

Police officers arrested members of a group that was marching Saturday afternoon (Apr. 10) to protest a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) decision regarding the death of 62 year-old Malton resident Ejaz Choudry, who was fatally shot by a Peel Police officer last summer.

Choudry, a resident of the second floor of an apartment building on Morning Star Drive in Malton, was found to be mentally ill and not physically fit prior to the events of June 20, 2020, when family members called 911 after Choudry refused to take his prescription medicine.

According to an SIU report released earlier this month, Choudry's wife, daughter and three sons left the apartment after the police arrived, and he was left alone inside with a kitchen knife.

Officers found a knife used in the kitchen near Choudry and called in a tactical unit, a canine unit and a Punjabi-speaking police officer to deal with the situation.

According to the SIU report, talks were held to convince Choudry but to no avail.

Choudry reportedly told police that he had taken his medicine, he did not want to talk to his family, and the police could not help him. He also told police that they could not enter his apartment without a court order.

SIU director Joseph Martino wrote in his summary that Choudry told police to "see what would happen" if they came in.

Subsequently, at 7:42 p.m., the police present at the scene called for a 'Crisis Negotiator Team,' though such units can take up to an hour to reach the site of a distress call. After not being able to contact or talk to Choudrry for about 20 minutes, the police team decided to take action to get him out.

At 8:26 p.m., three fully equipped officers were dispatched to Choudry's balcony. The balcony door was smashed with a kick, and he was warned to throw down his knife.

Police fired three plastic rounds with an anti-riot (ARVIN) gun, fired a taser, and a policeman fired two shots from their service pistol, killing Choudry.

According to the report, Choudry, armed with a knife, was moving towards a police officer, prompting the lethal rounds to be discharged.

According to the report, even after being shot, Choudry did not let go of the knife, and the police officer had to 'kick' the knife out of his hand. At 8:38 p.m, Choudry was pronounced dead.

SIU director Joseph Martino said in his summary that he had found no evidence to charge the police officer in connection with Choudry's death.

This is not the first time that the SIU has not found evidence against a policeman who had such an altercation with a citizen.

In a statement released on Apr. 6, Choudry's family said that though they were "deeply disappointed" that charges weren't leveled against the officers involved in the incident, they said it was "not surprising."

"The Choudry family had hoped for accountability in such a clear-cut case," a spokesperson for the family said. "The police forced their way into a frail, elderly man's home. They claimed they were compelled to intervene for his safety. Yet, the police refused to let Ejaz's family speak to him... Ejaz committed no crime. He did not deserve any of this."

Continued Pg 6

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
Digital Newspaper

Planning the shot, and planning for the future

Peter Whitaker
Publisher

It's all set — next Monday at the Paramount Fine Food Centre, I get my vaccine.

We've all heard so much about the different kind of vaccines that are being used on us, but do we really know the difference?

First off, the case of the AstraZeneca vaccine possibly causing blood clots... this scares the hell out of me as it is one of those unknown factors.

I have some underlining health issues and do not want to expose myself to any risk, but isn't every vaccine a risk?

Apparently they are all some sort of risk, from sore arms to blood clots to fatigue to sleepless nights, but unfortunately, this is for the good of all.

I'm going to take whatever they give me and hope for the best.

I've been told that in order to travel in the future, you will need to be vaccinated, although the U.S. government does not agree with that concept, but it would seem the rest of the world does!

This is going to be the biggest issue of the future, deciding who can travel. I for one don't want to be left behind and am looking forward to travelling again.

So much is depending on all of us being healthy in the future for all kinds of reasons.

Returning to normal still seems months and maybe years away. I prefer to think with some sort of logic.

I don't consider myself to be a sheep that follows the herd, but what are my options — don't get a vaccine and stay at home forever?

At 64, you actually do think of every day you have left and say to yourself, "I want to live the rest of my life the way I want, no barriers to hold me back."

So, here I am, hoping that the person who sticks the needle in me has a kind heart and a soft hand...get your vaccine as soon as you can.

Advocacy group involved in scrap with cops during protest

Continued from Pg 1

The SIU investigation prompted members of an advocacy group, identified as the "Malton People's Movement," to protest Saturday afternoon in the Goreway and Morning Star Drive area, near Choudry's residence.

According to police, the protestors picketed at the intersection before heading north towards a railway line north of Brandon Gate Drive — a crossing they publicly intended to blockade.

Protestors were stalled by police units set up by police near the railway crossing, and seven members of the group were arrested during the altercation.

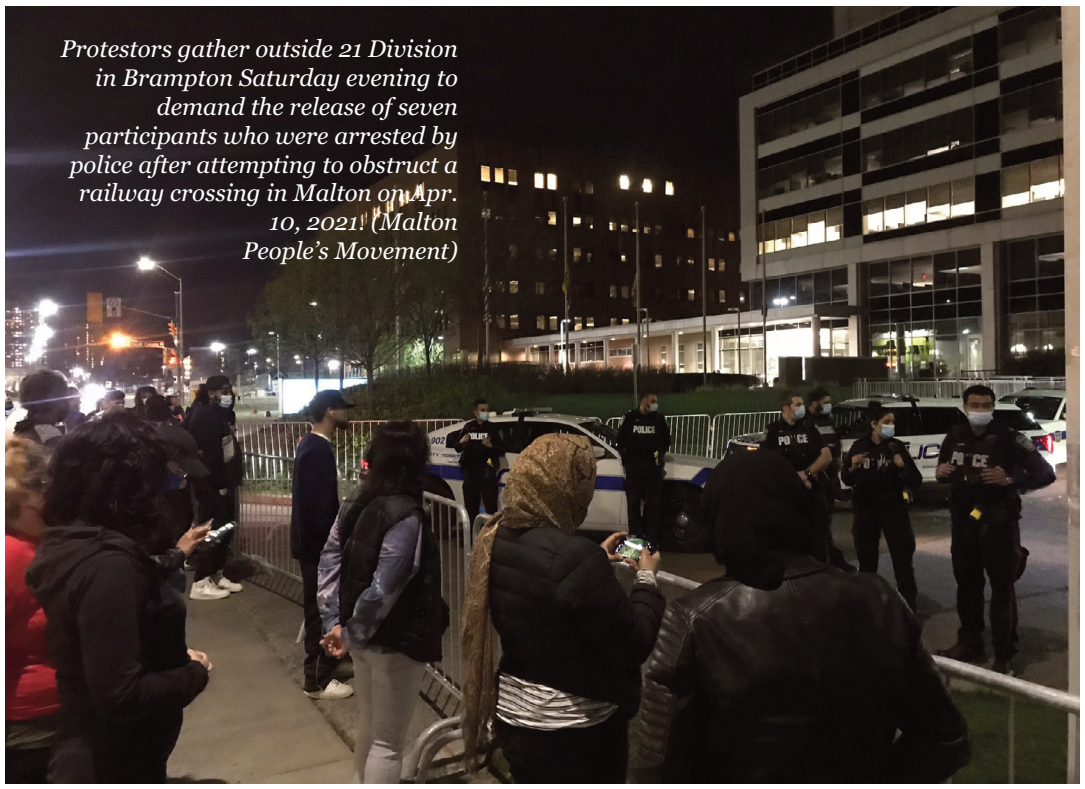
"Pigs have tactical units armed with assault rifles, vans, and dozens of officers detaining our people. Shame!" a post from the group read after the protestors were arrested.

The protestors arrested during the incident, were released later in the evening, amid further demonstrations by protestors outside 21 Division.

In a statement, Peel Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah said that police support the right to gather and protest, but they also "have a duty to respond to anything that jeopardizes the safety of demonstrators, local residents, police or crucial infrastructure."

"Unfortunately, a few of the protestors chose to put themselves and others at risk, and were arrested," Duraiappah said on Apr. 10.

Atif Jameel Qureshi, of Mississauga; Nasim Asgari, of Toronto; Ryan Pelletier, of Mississauga; Ashraf Sahar, of Toronto; Shawn Amankwah, of Mississauga; Anthony Bedward, of no fixed address; and Kabir Joshi, of Toronto, were all charged in connection with the protest due to obstructing police officers.



Protestors gather outside 21 Division in Brampton Saturday evening to demand the release of seven participants who were arrested by police after attempting to obstruct a railway crossing in Malton on Apr. 10, 2021. (Malton People's Movement)

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Opinion

Johnson and Johnson vaccine "pause" a political move?

Surjit Singh Flora
Column

The trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic has taken many forms and shapes.

Not only has it terrorised our planet and resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, but it has also changed its gameplan so often that it fools the entire population, including the ordinary people and the best scientific minds all around the world.

Nobody expected that this virus would morph into variants.

There are British variants, South African variants, Brazilian variants, a 'double mutant' variant found in India, Danish variants, and, some even claim, American variants.

Who knows how many other countries have variants or how many more will come?

For more than a year now, the scientific community does not have the foggiest idea of dealing with — or rather, eradicate — this deadly entity.

Just when we thought that we had a handle on this virus by producing a vaccine, all of a sudden, it mutated into something else and created a new variant that the drug could not protect.

For example, the AstraZeneca vaccine is thought to be less effective against the South African variant; the government switched to the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, but U.S. health officials are recommending a "pause" in the administration of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots.

Only six cases were detected in more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Maybe it's a political move, as they want to sell AstraZeneca — for all we know, this is a political game of chicken with the government.

J&J is a Canadian single dose vaccine, much easy to store, has no need for high freezing temperature, and can be delivered in one shot.

Think of the idiocy here. Out of 6.8 million, six people who took the J&J vaccine developed a blood clot, and none died. Of all the people vaccinated so far, exactly zero have been killed of the COVID virus.

Now, remember the population of America (370 million) and how many people have died of COVID without the vaccine.

The number is over 500,000. And climbing.

Pausing the vaccinations because of these clots will result in the deaths of far more people than the number who would succumb to a blood clot.

Smoking causes 1,763 cases of blood clots out of every million people. The birth control pill causes around 1,200 such clots out of a million. This vaccine may cause less than one in a million, even though between a comparatively-miniscule number of people out of those doses will get blood clots for no reason anyway.

Health Canada has said it will, every step of the way, put the health of Canadians first and foremost around any decisions the make around distributing the vaccine.

Health Canada is also one of our most inept bureaucracies. "We have the data; we just can't analyze it."

AstraZeneca, from 20 million doses given in the U.K., reported 79 cases of blood clots and 19 deaths resulting.

Germany had a higher ratio of clots to dosage: 31 people developed blood clots out of 2.7 million doses (11 per million).

America is just trying to push Canadian Johnson & Johnson vaccine back, so no one will buy from Canada.

Are you enjoying this round of power politics?

COVID-19 poses an extreme challenge for humans; it has us running around like headless chickens. It has become a test of our time regarding mental capacity, morality, human behaviour, finances, and government competence.

This pandemic has taught us how to rethink human and family values; in biblical proportions, how to conduct businesses, how to handle monetary affairs, how to implement education curricula, how we interact, humility, how to respect one another, how to value all types of life on Earth.

And those are minuscule compared to all the messages combined shared by special interest groups such as #Metoo, the Black Lives Matter movement and others.

The question is, what will it do next? How will it end, and when? Will it mutate into a monster virus and invade this beautiful planet more profoundly?

Sounds like a scene from a science fiction movie.

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The effects of the Covid – 19 virus have had devastating effects on our society like nothing we have ever experienced.

Our Community is one of connection.

Our businesses and restaurants are not corporate entities with no personality… the business and restaurant owners are our neighbours, friends and family members.

The very same people who own and operate these amazing establishments have always given back to the community. The events and festivals that we enjoy and appreciate are sponsored by the people who own these establishments. They put in their time and effort to give back to the community that has supported them throughout the year.

Mississauga Arts festival … Ribfest … Mississauga Waterfront festival … Buskerfest … Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival are all just some of the ways the business owners give back to the community.

Even during these uncertain times, they continue to help and give back to organizations that help our most vulnerable.

They are used to helping … not asking for help! This Is the time when they need our help the most. Please if you can … every little bit helps … join our list of individual and corporate donors who want to help us make this happen.

This fundraiser will be ongoing throughout 2021. We have the support of the Port Credit BIA to help us spread this initiative as well as The Peterson Team of Keller Williams who will donate 5% of their commissions for properties listed and sold in the Port Credit/Mineola area.

Simply a scan away from the GoFundMe page to make your donation.

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One under arrest in connection with 2020 fatal collision

Peel Police's Major Collision Bureau have charged a man in relation to a fail to remain collision, that took the life of 32-year-old Colin Fisher last year.

The arrest stems from an investigation launched after the fatal crash, which occurred on May 1, 2020, when Fisher was travelling eastbound on his bicycle while on Highway 7 in Brampton.

Fisher was struck by a motor vehicle, the driver of which subsequently failed to stop and provide assistance.

Fisher ultimately succumbed to his injuries at the scene of the collision.

Police later located and arrested 47 year-old Theodore O'Leary, of no fixed address, on Apr. 8. O'Leary was charged with one count of failure to stop after a collision resulting in death.

O'Leary appeared for a bail hearing in Brampton court on Apr. 9.

Anyone with additional information or dashcam footage regarding the case is asked to call the Major Collision Bureau at (905) 453–2121, ext. 3710.

Zest for living

This week's feature video.

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Two charged in hate-motivated incident

A pair of Mississauga residents have been charged in connection with an alleged hate crime that took place in the city last month.

11 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau said Tuesday that an investigation began after officers were alerted to an altercation that took place in a parking lot in the Mavis Road and Hillcresct Avenue area.

During the altercation, a victim/victims entered into a verbal argument with the suspects in the lot, located next to a hardware store, over a parking dispute. The situation escalated, and the male suspect retrieved a weapon from his vehicle and uttered threats towards the victims, while using racial slurs.

It is also alleged that the female suspect caused damage to the victims' vehicle, though the suspects fled before police arrived.

Police later identified the two suspects, whose names weren't immediately known as of press time.

A 24 year-old Mississsauga man has been charged with one count of assault with a weapon and one count of uttering threats, while a 27 year-old Mississauga woman has been charged with one count of mischief over $5,000.

Both suspects will appear in Brampton court to answer to the charges on June 25.

Anyone with additional information on the case is asked to call police at (905) 453-2121, ext. 1133.

Local non-profit boosts pilot program with new sponsor

Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga-Duffer in announced late last week that it has inked a deal with a major auto provider to support a new pilot program.

The non-profit said Friday that Nissan Canada has agreed to act as the transportation sponsor for 2021, supporting a new program to relocate completed homes for deserving families to a First Nation community.

The automotive company has donated the use of a Nissan Titan XD for use in the Tiny Home pilot program, and will be used to relocate the completed homes to Habitat HMD's partner community in the Bruce Peninsula.

"Having a permanent home allows a family to realize stability and a sense of community," said Steve Milette, president of Nissan Canada Inc. "Our relationship with Habitat for Humanity is at the center of our core values, not only as a corporate citizen, but as neighbours in the communities."

The non-profit said it was thrilled with the sponsorship and the help to move the affordable housing pilot forward, Habitat Halton Mississauga-Dufferin interim CEO Mike Brush said in a statement.

More than 1,400 Nissan Canada Inc. and dealership staff, have given over 9,000 hours of their time to help build 50 homes with Habitat for Humanity in cities across the country, including Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Saint John and Halifax.

"This donation helps Habitat HMD, along with our colleagues at Habitat Grey Bruce, to provide affordable housing to our partner First Nations Community, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation in the Bruce Peninsula," said Marsh.

Happy Vaisakhi

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Dump truck industry campaign continues with protests

Truckers and industry stakeholders took to the streets Wednesday morning to protest provincial ministry rules as part of an ongoing campaign.

More than 100 participants from the trucking industry took part in the protests, which took place outside provincial truck inspection centres, as part of the "Don't Dump on Us" campaign, to highlight restrictive rules that have put truckers out of business in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After months of protest and outreach, neither the Minister of Transportation (Caroline Mulroney) nor Premier Doug Ford, have acted to address concerns," a representative from the Ontario Dump Truck Association (ODTA) told Peel Weekly News.

The rules in dispute took effect in January, and require dump trucks older than 15 years to undergo expensive axle retrofits ($20,000 – $40,000), operate at significantly reduced loads or get off the road.

According to the ODTA, the trucks do not pose a safety risk, as the measures are designed to reduce long-term road wear.

At least 1,000 dump trucks manufactured prior are now deemed non-compliant under the new rules, said participants in the protests, who asked for the affected vehicles to be "grandfathered" into the current set of rules.

"Our industry has already been hit hard by the pandemic with lost work and income. Asking drivers to invest tens of thousands of dollars in perfectly good 15-year-old trucks is outrageous," said Jagroop Singh, president of the Ontario Aggregate Truckers Association (OATA). "This program was designed decades ago without any collaboration or consultation with our industry and the measures came into effect with no announcement or notice."

Look for additional coverage on this story in upcoming editions of Peel Weekly News.

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Opinion

Why people are positive after taking the COVID vaccine?

Surjit Singh Flora
Column

Cases are now coming to light in which people who have been vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine have also tested positive.

The list of cases of individuals who have received the vaccine and still developed symptoms is worth discussion.

Actor Paresh Rawal. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. Representative Stephen Lynch, a Democrat in Massachusetts US, after receiving the Pfizer vaccine for the second time, still tested positive. Hall of Fame basketball coach Rick Pitino, who coached the men's team at Iona College in New York, also tested positive after taking the first dose.

These are all prime examples of those who have tested positive even after the first dose of vaccine.

Let us understand why this is happening.

There is a gap between vaccination and protection; after getting the vaccine, people think they are safe and immune; that they can do and go anywhere they want.

Everybody needs to understand that once we have mass vaccination, the virus will have access to so few hosts that it will not be able to spread to new hosts, and we hope it will die out. Viruses by nature can only reproduce within a living host.

A potentially-lethal virus, such as COVID-19, will either kill the host and die by itself, or the host's immune system will defeat the virus and die.

Therefore, the virus can only survive by constantly jumping around and infecting a new host.

Causes of COVID-19 infection even after injection can include a lack of wearing masks in public; not maintaining social distance; ignoring other safety protocols, including advice from Health Canada and other medical bodies; not following the immunization rules prescribed by the doctors, not getting the second dose on time; or not having strong immunity.

The vaccine makes about 95 per ccent of people less likely (if not immune) to becoming a vector for transmitting the virus. In fact, infection WILL still occur.

However, a vaccinated person will have antibodies that will very quickly identify the virus and eradicate it before it has a chance to reproduce.

According to experts, vaccination does not mean the end of the virus. Vaccination completely protects your body against the dangerous effects of the virus. Infection can occur at any time; vaccination only helps to address serious issues that may exacerbate it. So, what is a re-infection?

So far, no vaccine has been developed that guarantees 100 per cent protection against the virus. Some people believe that the process of becoming infected after vaccination may be a case of re-infection, but this is not true.

The whole purpose of vaccination is to change it from a serious infection to a mild infection. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of being transferred from one person to another to keep them safe.

Many people have had this happen. It has nothing to do with the vaccine's efficacy. The first shot of the vaccine takes at least two weeks to build up an immunity, and the immunity obtained by one shot is between 50 and 70 per cent.

An infection from COVID-19 takes between three and five days to give you symptoms.

So, if you are infected three or four days before getting the vaccine, or up to 14 days after the vaccine, the vaccine has not had time to become effective.

Vaccines do not cure diseases; they prevent infections from developing. If the prevention mechanism has not yet been developed, then the vaccine cannot help.

The bottom line is that the vaccine will be useless if not enough people take it.

If we achieve 80 per cent adoption of vaccines, then that should be enough to stop COVID-19 in its tracks.

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Caledon Fire nets $21k in funding

by **Alex Gregory**

The Town of Caledon will receive $21,000 in provincial funding to support the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones announced Tuesday.

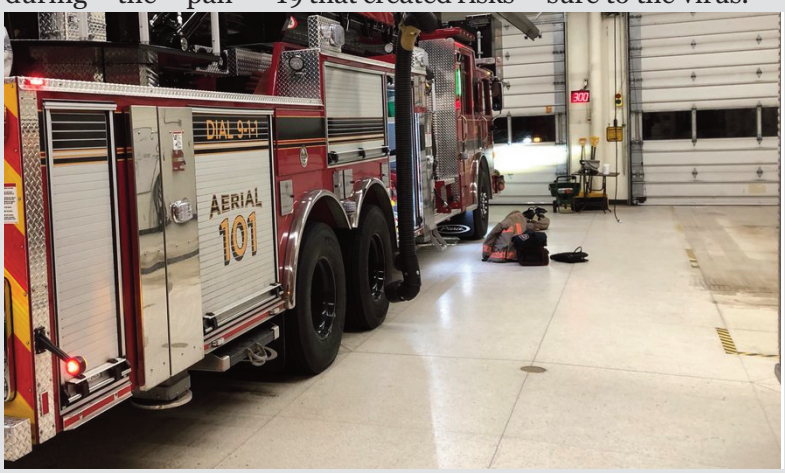
The local fire department is one of six in the region to receive funding from the province, alongside Grand Valley, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne, and will help address fire safety training and support safety inspection programs to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code during the pandemic..

"Our government is committed to supporting (the province's) fire services and thank them for their dedication to protecting our communities," said Jones. "This new investment will enhance fire safety in Dufferin-Caledon by providing the technology and equipment needed to support training and fire inspections during these unprecedented times."

The funding is part of a $5 million provincial investment to help municipal fire services respond to the local impacts of COVID-19 that created risks and unprecedented challenges for fire departments to conduct training and fire safety inspections.

The one-time funding will also enhance in-person and online educational instruction needs by increasing access to additional training.

It will also support updates to specialized critical equipment, such as high-speed internet, to enhance virtual training and enable remote options to support fire safety and compliance with the province's Fire Code while minimizing exposure to the virus.



Toronto man charged after indecent act on train

A Toronto man is facing charges of committing an indecent act after exposing himself to a passenger onboard a GO train, 11 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau have revealed.

The force said late last week that the suspect was onboard a GO Train travelling through Mississauga on Apr. 5, around 7:20 p.m., when a 35 year-old woman noticed him exposing himself and performing an indecent act.

The victim was able to exit the train without sustaining any physical injuries.

Police later identified the suspect as 56 year-old Stephen Keays, of Toronto, and arrested him at home on Apr. 8.

Keays is charged with one count of committing an indecent act and one count of criminal harrassment.

Keays appeared in Brampton court to answer to the charges on Apr. 9.

Police believe there may be more victims, and are asking anyone who may have had contact with the suspect to call police at (905) 453-2121, ext. 1133.

ANIMAL SERVICES

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Opinion

Trudeau still chasing a majority mandate and legacy?

by **Vidya Gopaul**

Justin Trudeau, the current Prime Minister of Canada, will present his first budget on Apr. 19 — the Liberals' first budget since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

It has been mentioned that this budget has lot of goodies for the middle class families, will build an affordable national daycare coast to coast, national pharmacare programs, basic income for Canadians, will spend huge sum of money, in billions, for infrastructure and in climate change programs.

He and his cabinet members are also using very carefully chosen words that really do resonate with people of interest, such as women, the middle class and the family-oriented mind set

He uses flowery language such as, "Now is the moment to build national daycare for the women of today," "Build back better," "Canadians will get well paying jobs" and "To keep Canadians healthy," to name a few choice comments.

He has been on that job for more than six years and he had promised a "sunny way" for Canadians since he was elected as Prime Minister of this great country we call Canada — and he still has to deliver those plans.

Instead, he has been plagued with scandal after scandal, and yet, he is still chasing to win another majority mandate from the hardworking Canadians.

In the 2015 general election, he won a majority government, and in the 2018 general election, he brought back a minority government. That tells you that Canadians were not happy with his job performance in his first four years as Prime Minister of Canada.

Now he wants to get a majority government back — that is his ultimate goal.

As luck would have it, the COVID-19 pandemic started to infect thousands of Canadians — and we are well into the second year of this deadly pandemic.

Therefore, he believes that (as I said at the time, "As luck would have it") the pandemic is playing in his favour to win another majority mandate.

He has carefully rolled out the COVID-19 vaccination program in a way that Canadians would believe that he is doing a great job in keeping them healthy, but is also making it difficult for the premiers to rollout the vaccination programs.

Moreover, the Conservative Premiers of Ontario and Alberta, the NDP Premier of British Columbia and the Coalition Avenir Premier of Quebec are having a lot of difficulties vaccinating seniors, front line workers, teachers and health care professionals and they are being blamed for just about for everything in regards to the controlling of the infection.

Since these provinces are rich in voters, Trudeau is betting that those voters may help him get a majority mandate.

Last but not least, last year, politicians who took a gamble to call an election during the midst of the pandemic have been rewarded very handsomely.

The NDP Premier converted his minority government to a majority government. So did the Premier of New Brunswick. The Saskatchewan Premier kept his majority Conservative government. And recently, the Liberal Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador translated his minority government to a slim majority government -- still being disputed as we speak -- in the middle of a deadly variant outbreak, even though he was taking a beating at the polls.

Therefore, keeping those outcomes in mind, presenting a budget that most Canadians and opposition parties would not refuse, and as the unemployment rate dropped to 7.5 from 8.2 per cent, Trudeau is taking a big gamble to trigger an election this year to possibly win his majority government back, which will set a legacy for him.

If that is not possible, I have a feeling that he can still pull a rabbit from his magic hat and can leave the PMO with a legacy, and that is, he can still make a Liberal female Prime Minister.

Chrystia Freeland is the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. She is a well respected and high ranking cabinet member as well. These are the most responsible and high ranking cabinet positions a politician can have.

Now, if Trudeau does not get a majority mandate, then his days in the PMO Office will be numbered.

Since he has self-proclaimed that his government is a feminist government, to uphold that ideology, he may just resign and hand the Prime Minister job to Chrystia Freeland, We would then have a Liberal female Prime Minister.

Even if he does win a majority government, he could still hand over the PM job to her in his last year of the four-year mandate.

That is what happened to Kim Campbell in 1993 when Brian Mulroney, then PM of Canada, resigned in the last of his four-year mandate and made her the first female PM of Canada, but she was a Conservative.

By the way, she lost that year's general election very badly to Jean Chretien - a Liberal candidate.

You think history will repeat itself ? We will see!

Trudeau may just leave one legacy for sure, and that is, to make the first Liberal PM of Canada. Or, if he wins a majority government from a minority government, when he had a majority government to begin with. I do not think it has happened before in the history of Canadian politics.

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Local MPP urges residents to get vaccinated

Mississauga-Streetsville MPP Nina Tangri "rolled up her sleeve" for the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine this week — one of several politicians to publicly support vaccinations against the virus.

Tangri was on-hand at the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus earlier this week to get the vaccine, and urged residents to get vaccinated during the pandemic.

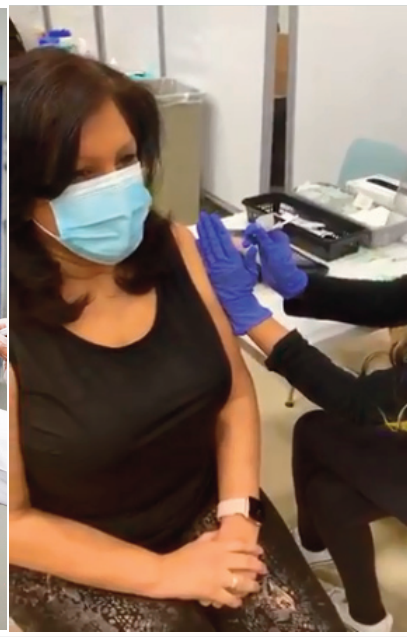
In a video showcasing the procedure, Tangri said that doctors and health workers working on the front line "are working hard to save people from this terrible disease," and asled residents to make an appointment to come to the vaccination centers without any hesitation and get their vaccine dose.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie also rolled up his sleeves this week for the first dose of the vaccine.

Ford had the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine delivered to him at a local pharmacy in Etobicoke.

Ford took the AstraZeneca vaccine at a time when blood clots have been appearing in people who have received the vaccine in recent weeks.

There have been more than one million cases in Canada so far, of which about 23,000 have died, and more than nine and a half million have recovered.



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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS Digital Newspaper

BUSINESS

Aegis shareholders overwhelmingly approve Second Cup sale

by **Alex Gregory**

Put a lid on it.

Shareholders overwhelmingly approved a sale last week that would place a noted coffee chain in the hands of Montreal-based Foodtastic Inc.

Aegis Brands Inc. hosted a special meeting last Wednesday to approve the sale of the chain, which will include a $14 million cash deal and the sale of all assets associated with the brand.

The special resolution approving the transaction was approved by 99.62 per cent of the votes represented at the meeting, which was hosted on Apr. 7.

Aegis previously announced their plan to sell Second Cup in March of this year, and said the deal would boost their own cash flow and allow them to capitalize on a new growth strategy, which includes the strategic acquisition of several brands.

"We are pleased that the Second Cup brand and franchisees have the opportunity to evolve with a new Canadian partner," said Aegis president and CEO Steven Pelton. "At Aegis we will now focus on further development of (our brands), while seeking out exciting new growth and acquisition opportunities."

The transaction is expected to close this month.

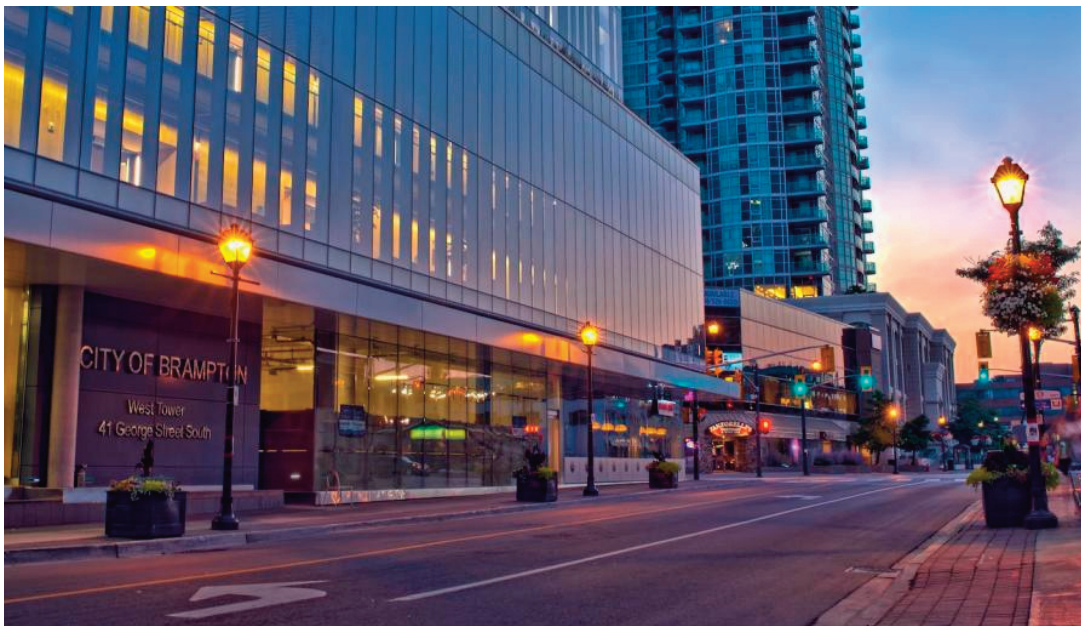
SANS and Rogers roll out new cybersecurity courses

The Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst at Ryerson University is rolling out a new partnership — as it teams with U.S.-based SANS Institute to offer a new suite of cybersecurity courses to participants.

Billed as "the highest-quality cybersecurity training available" in the country, the new partnership was announced Monday, and will offer open-enrolment cybersecurity training courses, through the SANS Catalyst program each month, beginning in June 2021.

The courses will integrate the SANS Institute cybersecurity curriculum with specific Canadian content designed to inform private-sector cybersecurity professionals of the unique dynamics of the cybersecurity landscape in Canada.

"Our work with Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst has already delivered historic results, and we are looking forward to reaching more Canadian cybersecurity professionals through this new partnership," said SANS North America director Marc Niketas. "Cybersecurity training is of the utmost importance for professionals working in the Canadian private sector, and we're committed to increasing opportunities for cybersecurity training in Canada."



Learners in the courses will also have access to additional experiential learning opportunities at the Catalyst Cyber Range, where they can hone their skills against a wide-variety of attack scenarios in ultra-realistic simulated network environments.

When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the courses will be delivered in-person from the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst's Brampton location, and Ryerson University's campus in downtown Toronto.

"This partnership will make in-person delivery of the SANS Institute's world-leading cybersecurity training more broadly available to Canadians in Canada," says Charles Finlay, executive director of the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst. "The SANS curriculum will be bolstered with content specifically designed to empower Canadian cybersecurity professionals working in Canada. This is a win-win for the Canadian cybersecurity ecosystem, and we are incredibly excited to be collaborating with our partners at SANS to make it happen."

Information on course dates and pricing can be found at https://www.ryerson.ca/cybersecure-catalyst/corporate-training/.

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Dufferin-Caledon cultural projects part of provincial funding push

The spotlight was shining on the Town of Grand Valley last week, as the community was selected as host for the virtual announcement for a joint announcement from the federal and provincial government regarding cultural projects being funded under the Investing in Canada fund.

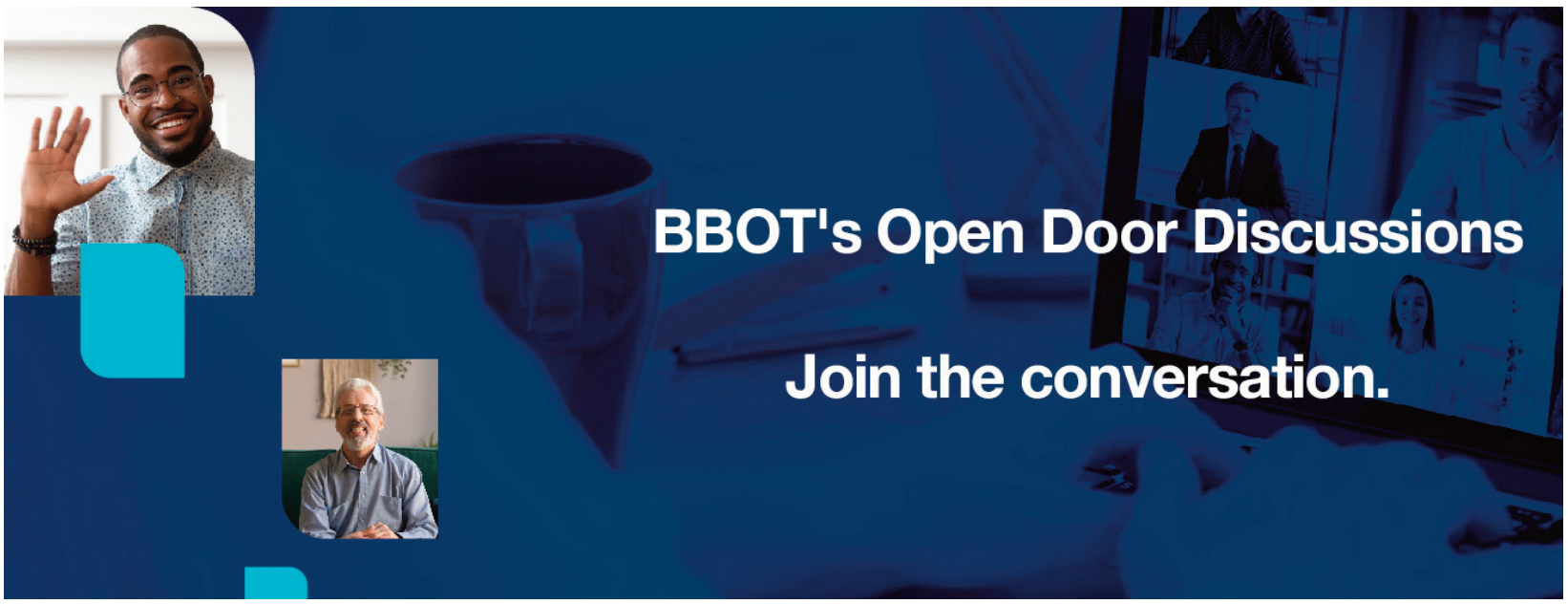
Six projects in Dufferin-Caledon, including the Town of Caledon, Mono Tennis Club, Mayfield Rec Complex and Caledon Trailway bridges received funding to support a variety of rehabilitation and renovation projects across the region.

Caledon Public Library will receive $121,872 in federal and $101,500 in provincial funding for the renovation and creation of a new Innovation Lab workspace; the Mono Tennis Club will receive $517,000 in funding from all levels of government to construct two new tennis courts at the Mono Centre; the Mayfield Rec Complex will receive $507,750 for pool repairs, upgrades and a replacement of its main lobby; and the Town of Caledon will receive $600,000 to rehabilitate four trailway bridges and improve pedestrian safety.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback and Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna were on-hand Friday to make the announcement, among other federal representatives.

"I'm pleased Dufferin-Caledon has received funding for six projects throughout the riding," said Seeback. "This support will be critical to mitigate the terrible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community and will surely help to stimulate economic activity, while improving the quality of life for all residents."

"Recreational and cultural opportunities impact our daily lives, be it on the trails, in the library, swimming, or playing tennis, hockey and lacrosse," added Jones. "These improvements, repairs and upgrades to our community facilities and trails helps everyone to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle."



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Prime leasing company acquires LendCare in blockbuster deal

by **Alex Gregory**

Mississauga's goeasy Ltd. announced plans this week to acquire a major Canadian point-of-sale finance and technology company for $320 million.

The local non-prime leasing and lending service said Monday that, under the terms of a definitive agreement, it will pay $320 million in a combination of cash and $10 million in common shares to Toronto-based LendCare, which serves approximately 3,000 businesses throughout the country and helps finance purchases in a variety of different sectors, including healthcare and automotive.

The deal, financed in part with a $130 equity agreement with BMO Capital Markets, is expected to close in the second quarter of 2021.

"We have achieved incredible growth over the past 15 years and this acquisition will serve to accelerate LendCare's current growth strategy as goeasy looks to make meaningful investments in the business," LendCare president and CEO Ali Metel said Monday. "Together, we will help bring our customers and merchants an even better suite of products and financing experience... our success has been extraordinary and I'm proud of what we have achieved and look forward to a promising future."

Under the terms of the agreement, Metel and LendShare co-founder Mark Schell will take on new management roles with goeasy.

The acquisition is expected to accelerate goeasy's growth in the consumer credit market through the expansion of its product range and point-of-sale distribution platform.

"(LendCare has) built a remarkable business and we look forward to providing them the support and investments that will help achieve their ambitious growth plans," said Jason Mullins, goeasy's president & CEO. "LendCare is a complementary fit for goeasy, helping advance and propel our existing growth strategy, by expanding our range of financial products and growing our point-of-sale lending channel."

Goeasy, which is headquartered in Mississauga's downtown core, manages over 400 leasing and lending locations across the country and employs than 2,000 workers.

goeasy

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Feds invest $2.2 million for Rose rehabilitation

Brampton's Rose Theatre is set to get a facelift, as the federal government and province invest more than $2.3 million into a major rehabilitation project.

Representatives from all three levels of government were on-hand Friday morning to announce that funding the funding would be provided to boost the city's performing arts profile, through a major rehabilitation that will include accessibility upgrades, new LED technology and lighting, and video infrastructure.

Brampton South MP Sonia Sidhu made the announcement alongside federal Minister of Infrastructure Laurie Soctt, Brampton South MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria and Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown.

"Since it first opened in 2006, The Rose has become a cornerstone of our community's culture, and has made downtown Brampton a more vibrant place to gather, enjoy, and build memories together. This investment will help maintain The Rose as a venue to showcase local and world-renowned performers, and ensure that once doors reopen, (the theatre) will be enjoyed by our community for years to come," Sarkaria said during Friday's announcement.

$2.2 million will be invested from the federal side, through the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada fund, while the province will put up $1.8 million in funding. The City of Brampton will also contribute $1.5 million towards the project.

Once complete, the project will enhance the accessibility of The Rose for both audiences and artists, and increase operational efficiency by reducing the time and labour required to present events and programming.

"Investing in performing arts centres promotes cultural diversity and enriches the artistic talent in communities where people live, work and raise families," said Sidhu. "The rehabilitation of The Rose will ensure this iconic theatre is more accessible and enjoyable for all residents and visitors, and first-rate performances will continue for many years to come. "

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Province boosts skills training for truck drivers

24 newcomers will take part in a new pilot project aimed at boosting career development in the province's transportation sector.

Brampton West MPP Amarjot Sandhu announced plans late last week for the province to invest nearly $400,000 to address a shortage of truck drivers and help job seekers provide meaningful work via the new project, held in partnership with Hamilton's Immigrants Working Centre.

"Addressing a shortage of skilled workers in the trucking industry by investing in free skills training project for newcomers in Brampton, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area is a further demonstration that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our government is still making significant investments to build much-needed infrastructure in our community and across the province," Sandhu said during last week's announcement, alongside Minister of Labour Monte McNaughton and Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney. "These investments will provide more people with better opportunities and help them in finding meaningful and well-paying jobs."

The investment is part of an effort to provide more people with opportunities to find meaningful, well-paying jobs while keeping the province competitive in a sector that is expected to see 25,000 vacancies across Canada by 2023.

"Truck drivers serve a critical role in our economy by delivering goods and helping ensure local businesses can reach their consumers at home and abroad," said McNaughton. "There is a lot of talent in this province and this free program will help newcomers to (the province) join an exciting industry and build a better life themselves and their loved ones."

The program will come at no cost for participants, and will allow them toobtain their AZ driver's licence, which is required to become a commercial truck driver in the province.

The program also provides language training and interview assistance, a paid job placement for each participant, and funds to cover expenses such as travel costs or childcare.

"Programs like this can make a real impact in helping ease the labour shortage we're seeing in the transportation sector for truck drivers," said Mulroney. "Families and businesses across Ontario can rest easy knowing that these future drivers will ensure the safe and timely delivery of goods to their communities every day."

Recruitment for the program, which includes a combination of virtual and in-training training, has already begun, and the first cohort of 12 participants is expected to begin training by the end of May. Participants are expected to be ready for employment by the end of September. The second 12-participant cohort is scheduled to begin training in August.

The driver training project is one of 49 active SkillsAdvance Ontario projects dedicated to sector-specific training for jobs in hospitality and tourism; hospitality and food; steel; mining; construction; manufacturing; warehousing; transportation; healthcare; social assistance; PSW; early childhood education; agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; arboriculture; landscape and horticulture; cannabis; financial services; and accessible digital media transportation sectors, said McNaughton.

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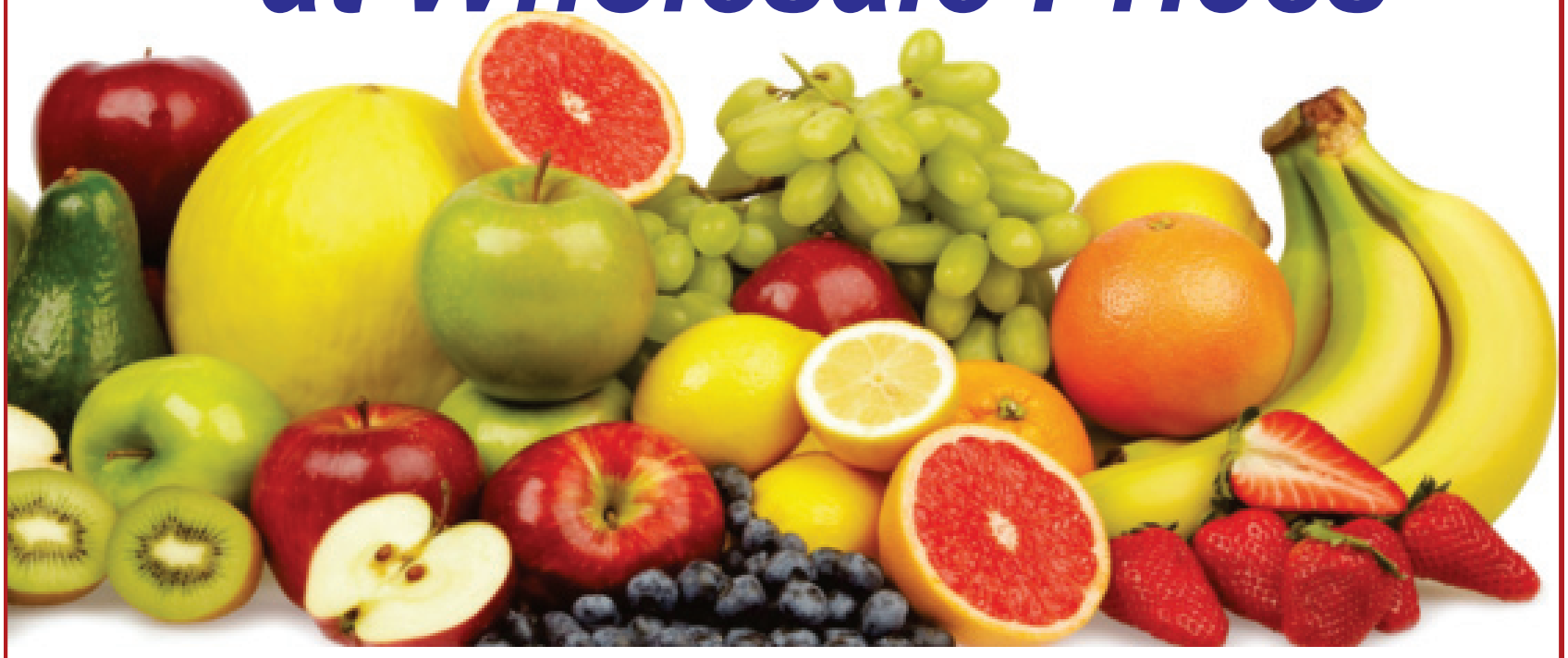

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS Digital Newspaper

SPORTS

OLA steps in to stall sale of Brampton lacrosse team

Not so fast.

The Ontario Lacrosse Association's (OLA) Board of Directors have stopped the decision to move a Brampton lacrosse team to Owen Sound.

In a statement released on Saturday, the OLA said it had received a notice to appeal the motion to move the team, which was approved by the OLA's Board of Governors.

Upon further review, the OLA found that its Board of Governors did not have the sole authority to approve the transfer.

"A final decision on the matter will be the responsibility of the OLA's Board of Directors," a statement from the organization's Appeals Committee read. The basis of the appeal was solely focused on the transfer process of the team, the OLA said.

The statement represents another major development in the uncertainty of the team's fate, which was initially announced late last year, but met with resistance from community advocates and politicians in Brampton.

The motion of moving the Excelsiors MSL team to Owen Sound was officially announced in Nov. 2020, when Excelsiors owner Joe Norton indicated that support for the team "(needed) a fanbase that can support the cost of running a team at this level," necessitating a move in the face of a changing market.

According to Norton, the decision to move the team was unanimously made by the MSL and approved by the league on Oct. 15, 2020.

"We feel that the fans are great in Owen Sound, lacrosse is great in Owen Sound, and Owen Sound deserves a top team," Norton told the Owen Sound Sun Times regarding the team, which has won 11 Mann Cup Championships.

The move prompted Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown to write a letter to Marion Ladouceur, the former president of the OLA, stating that it was not clear whether the decision was ratified, or whether alternate options to keep the club in the city were considered.

"Other members of the Brampton community would have offered to buy the team for more money and keep the team located in Brampton," Brown wrote, referring to an apparent agreement signed by Excelsiors President Ziggy Musial that purportedly sold the team for $1,500 - a document which has since been released to the public.

For its part, the Excelsior Club said in a statement after approving the move that there were "substantial costs" running a championship team, and the departure of their corporate sponsor, the elimination of a historical designation grant from the City of Brampton and other programs requiring funding, the time was right to make the move.

"With the enormous loss of sponsorship and grant monies which we had suffered, and with other programs in the BELC requiring funding for their teams, it became apparent to our Board that despite our best efforts, we could no longer keep the Major program viable, without having to sell players and relying on our Junior and Senior B affiliates to loan us players to ensure we had a roster available on game nights," a Club spokesperson said, citing losses of "up to $80,000 per year since 2012."

"These struggles were no secret within lacrosse circles, but no major corporate sponsors were coming forward with offers to bail out our storied program."

The situation has also attracted interest from numerous community advocates, including Boys & Girls Club executive director Michael Gyovai, who urged the OLA not to ratify the move.

"We need to preserve 150 Years of Brampton history and culture," Gyovai said in a statement last year. "The Excelsiors are more than just a sports franchise, they are a part of the the foundation of who and what Brampton is and stands for."

Look for additional coverage regarding this story in upcoming editions of Peel Weekly News.

- With PWN Files

Cycling Canada pursues Mississauga teen, despite no biking experience

A Mississauga swimmer and cross country runner has been given a chance to pursue her Olympic dream, but in a sport she's never considered.

Madeline Lebreton, a 17-year-old student at the Woodlands School, has competed at the provincial level in both cross country (OFSAA) and swimming (Mississauga Aquatic Club).

Yet after participating in the Canadian Olympic Committee's official talent search, called RBC Training Ground, she was told she might have a future in Olympic track cycling.

"Madeline caught our eye as her aerobic scores on the 20M multi-stage fitness test (beep test) were really strong," said Cycling Canada Next Gen lead coach Jenny Trew. "Her history as a swimmer and runner also show a strong affinity for not only aerobic strength, but also training habits and competing under pressure. We are excited to see how she can transfer those strengths to the bike."

As a result of her test results, Lebreton has been chosen as one of only 15 athletes from across Canada to learn the sport and potentially fast-track toward the national team.

"It was definitely a surprise to hear from Cycling Canada considering I've never been involved in the sport, but I'm excited to see if my fitness transfers to the bike too," said Lebreton. "When I saw they were one of the NSO partners I thought it would be a fun sport to try but didn't think they'd reach out. Cycling is pretty new to me. Over quarantine I started using a stationary bike for cross training at home, and I've definitely been on more bike rides with my friends since we can't get our drivers licenses, but that's about it."

The next step for Lebreton is to coordinate a safe time with Cycling Canada to get on a track.

Since October more than 900 athletes from across the country have registered for the virtual version of the program.

The top 100 athletes (based on benchmark testing and subsequent sport specific testing by interested sports) will be selected to compete in the RBC Training Ground National Final and potentially earn funding support as an RBC Future Olympian.

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS Digital Newspaper

LIFESTYLE / AROUND TOWN

Virtual gala unveils a "Holi" experience for guests

by **Alex Gregory**

An annual celebration of colour returned with a new virtual format this past weekend, as William Osler Health Foundation held their annual Holi Gala.

The annual event, which pivoted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attracted more than 5,000 visitors Saturday evening — and raised an incredible $377,000 for critical supplies and equipment for local hospitals.

Guests joined in the free festivities from the comfort of home, and witnessed a selection of unique and colourful performances along with speeches from frontline workers on the importance of local healthcare, particularly at local hospitals such as Brampton Civic Hospital, and Peel Memorial Centre.

"The displays of colour, celebration and care at this year's Holi Gala were nothing short of incredible," said Osler Foundation CEO Ken Mayhew. "Despite having to gather in a reimagined, virtual way, our community truly came together. From guests and committee members, to corporate sponsors and community leaders – we are so grateful for all of the support in honouring our Health Care Heroes and raising much-needed funds for our hospitals."

Raja Dhaliwal, Executive Chairman of World Financial Group, reflected on why it is important to give back to the community and what inspired their title sponsorship of Holi Gala.

"Either you can live your life like ice cream and melt away or you can live your life like a candle, which lights the lives of others before burning away."

The action packed festivities included a show-stopping performance by the Crown Prince of Bhangra, Jazzy B, and a lively auction with coveted prizes including Air Canada tickets, one year of tuition from Mentor College, and locally-made artwork.

For more information or to donate, visit the Osler website at oslerfoundation.org.

New exhibition brings renewed focus on fine art

Headwaters Arts' ReLaunch 2021 show will hopefully move into the gallery sometime after May 5 hanging through May 24, but for now it's all virtual viewing and shopping with curbside pickup.

Fourteen artists have reignited their artistic practices with an exciting and sumptuous array of pieces for the viewers enjoyment. With virtual viewing and shopping with curbside pickup on hold until at least May 5, the arts organization announced last week that it would seek to relaunch its regular exhibitions with a new virtual showing featuring fourteen artists that have reignited their artistic practices with an exciting and sumptuous array of pieces for the viewer's enjoyment.

Sculptures, wood carved items both decorative and useful, and fine art pieces in several media are presented from a cross-section of Headwaters Arts' member artists.

Visit the gallery at headwatersarts.com/our-current-show and discover the classical and traditional styles juxtaposed with the abstract and minimalist.

Well established artists, mid-career and emerging artists, have been innovating and exploring the past several months. Be prepared to look at things in new ways, to wonder, and tobe intrigued with what is in front of you.

From its preview to its hoped for move into the gallery this spring, ReLaunch 2021 will prove to be a vital, dynamic, and energizing exhibition.

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Local artists taking part in milestone art auction

by **E.C. Munson**

Dundas Valley School of Art's 50th anniversary art event is ready for a second attempt as the school prepares another vast collection of paintings, drawings, photography, pottery, sculpture and more for its 50th Annual Art Auction.

The annual event, which runs through Apr. 17 and is presented by incite Foundation for the Arts, will see artists from Peel, the GTA and beyond taking part in one of this year's biggest art-related events.

With last year's celebrations postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school is determined to pop the champagne and build on the success of their mid-year auction held last September.

Hamilton's recent return to the grey-lockdown category within the provincial COVID-19 Response Framework now means all artwork viewing and bidding will be online through Apr. 17.

"September's 49½ auction was our first go at hosting it all online and despite a few technical hiccups, it was a huge success," says Heather Vaugeois, Director of Development and Community Engagement for DVSA.

"Everyone told us how much they loved being able to view the artwork and bid from their phones or computer. We've sorted out the technical issues, (so) our auction site is the place to be for collectors and casual art lovers looking to buy original, high-quality and affordable works."

Over 1,200 works of art in all styles and all price ranges will be on display online over the six days.

The school's biggest fundraiser, proceeds from the event are split between the artists and the school, directly benefiting the local artistic community while funding DVSA's mission to provide high-quality and accessible visual arts education programs for the region.

"We've had tremendous support from the community over the last year and we are immensely grateful," says Claire Loughheed, Executive Director of Dundas Valley School of Art. "The art auction is not only vital to the school's sustainability, but it also provides financial support for hundreds of regional artists. Sometimes the money buys the next tube of paint or subsidizes the next art course. Sometimes, the sale is enough to start a burgeoning artist on the road to a professional career."

Instead of a Live Auction this year, there will be a Featured Artworks gallery highlighting 50 favourite and new auction artists. The Featured Artworks include pieces by renowned Canadian artists, Norval Morrisseau and Conrad Furey, along with work from leading regional artists such as E. Robert Ross, Laura Culic, Julia Veenstra, Eric Ranveau, Michelle Guitard, Grace Afonso, Sandee Ewasiuk, Tom Wilson, Barb Sachs and Peter Fischer among others.

There's also a remarkable watercolour piece up for bids by DVSA founder, Marion Farnan. These will be prominently displayed online for viewing and bidding throughout the week.

"The reach of the online format has bought in all sorts of new art lovers – and new artists too!" says Loughheed. "We're thrilled. It's never been easier to discover and buy the fabulous work being created by our regional artists. Get online and see – you're bound to find new pieces to fall in love with!"

More information can be found at the auction website, dvsa.ca/art-auction/.

Brampton celebrates its Mosaic virtually during Ramadan

The City of Brampton will celebrate its diversity virtually during Ramadan with a month of online activities through May 12, with a special iftar celebration event on Monday, Apr. 19, from 7 - 8:30 pm.

Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for the Muslim community.

As the city remains under a provincial stay-at-home order, politicians are asking residents to celebrate safely and take part in its online activities planned during Ramadan, including:

- Community giving by partnering with a Brampton foodbank to collect non-perishable food and toy donations during Ramadan to help people in need
- Highlighting the cultural aspects of Ramadan through community submissions
- Spotlight on local Brampton businesses and how to support them during Ramadan
- Virtual tour of a mosque in Brampton and a message from a local Imam
- Ramadan food recipes, health and fitness tips

'We are so fortunate to have such a wonderfully diverse community here in Brampton, with the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our mosaic of cultures through special events like the holy month of Ramadan," Mayor Patrick Brown said earlier this week, indicating that the city has more than 60,000 followers of Islam in the city.

During Ramadan, the Muslim community does not eat between dawn and sunset. The iftar dinner is a meal held at sunset, when Muslims break their daily fast.

This year's Iftar includes a welcome message from Brown, local councillors and messages from community leaders and local imams.

The celebration will feature Quranic recitation, words of inspiration, nasheeds, a keynote message about the Spirit of Ramadan, dua, adhan (call to prayer) and iftar at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit brampton.ca/experienceramadan.

Residents are also advised that during Ramadan again this year, mosques will be able to amplify their 8 p.m. / sunset call to prayer from their buildings.

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ACER plants vaccine confidence for Earth Day

by **Catherine Soplet**

"For Earth Day 2021, we will find out if vaccine confidence is sprouting where we planted close to Knightsbridge-area apartment towers last fall," says Alice Casselman.

Now an octogenarian, Alice is a retired Science Department Head and the founder in 1987 of ACER, the Association for Canadian Educational Resources.

Ontario's Emergency Orders, enacted on Apr. 8, have cancelled Alice's original Earth Day 2021 programming.

ACER intended to plant native tree suites for climate change research in an inaugural project with conservation collaborators from Sustainable Cobourg.

Local high school and post-secondary students will reboot in very late spring or in the fall, as conditions dictate.

With a reference to Groundhog Day, Alice says, "This is just like last year. Instead of planting, we delivered our first Earth Day webinar to announce our pandemic-adapted planting that was ready for field testing."

This year, ACER's virtual event will be a check in with local tree keepers about the confidence of their adult volunteers to get the COVID vaccine, says Alice.

"Everyday Science (also known as Citizen Science) empowers people to become better informed to assess their personal course of action."

It is ACER's experience since 1987 to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds in a common purpose for a more beautiful and natural environment.

Friendships spark, curiosity is piqued, in turn promoting social wellbeing and build affinity which leads to trust.

As a founding Director of Outward Bound Ontario, Alice finds ways to draw on local knowledge and cultivate local leadership.

Before a vaccine was available, last October, ACER engaged 71 volunteers in safe outdoor science and fun where Peel Public Health data showed that COVID hit hardest.

Five climate action tree installations were contributed to the Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) in collaboration with Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA), City of Brampton and the Peel Region - Healthy Communities Initiative.

Dubbed "Project Crossroads," the urban reforestation initiative was unprecedented in scope.

In Dec. 2020, Peel Regional Council gave a nod to ACER for "support in health and well being of communities with significant exposure to climate risk through action on climate change adaptation, risk reduction and Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation".

Nimesha Basnayaka, Program Coordinator for ACER, is a resident of Brampton.

"I am so relieved that both I and my young senior parents are in the queue to get our COVID vaccine," she says.

"Planting and tree labs measurement later this spring can be scheduled, now that volunteers can be vaccinated. Teachers can have greater confidence in creating outdoor education activities with their students."

Outdoor, on-line and remote activities for fun and for academic curriculum can be found on ACER's website: acer-acre.ca.

Students looking for volunteer hours in support of One Million Trees programs can sign up.

Poetry Writing Contest

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Lockdown postpones major awards ceremony

The increased COVID-19 lockdown measures have forced the Mississauga Arts Council to postpone the Mississauga Arts Awards, also known as The MARTYS from Thursday, May 20, 2021, to Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 7 p.m.

The arts organization announced Monday that the 26th annual ceremony will be hosted on Zoom this year, celebrating the outstanding achievements of Mississauga artists, across all genres in a virtual ceremony, hosted by Arlene and introduced by Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

"We want the MARTYS to be more than another ZOOM meeting," says producer, Ron Duquette.

"Too much good work was done last year, and it needs to be celebrated as best as we can with some production value. We will wait until after this peak period has passed when hopefully we can do more to produce a worthy program."

"Previous MAC video productions, "Rise Up Mississauga - Concert of Hope" and "Hazel A Celebration: 100 Years in the Making" have set the bar very high, and we want to make sure our talented creatives are recognized as they should be, virtually." added Mike Douglas, Executive Director of Mississauga Arts Council.

The organization has received over 70 nominations for this year's event, despite 2020 being a disastrous year for the arts.

"So much of what we value most about the arts was lost over the last year," Douglas said, "yet so many artists adapted and were ingenious in finding new ways to connect with their audiences."

This year, artists' accomplishments will be acknowledged by adjusted award criteria that will highlight video production and digital representation of various art forms.

Crombie will both introduce the awards show and announce the winner of the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award, along with former Mayor Hazel McCallion, who will present the Volunteer of the Year award.

MAC's founding Executive Director, Laurie Pallett, is slated to present the Patron of the Arts award.

The event will air at 7 p.m. on Mississauga Arts Council's YouTube Channel.

For more information, visit the event page at mississaugaartscouncil.com/themartys.

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Health and Wellness - Taking Responsibility

by **Elizabeth Banfalvi**

In our three survival needs, we need a safe haven we crave, so why don't we have it?

Especially nowadays with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to feel safe. We are told to stay at home and not interact with other people. We even get public alerts to stay at home.

Our homes are where we are and so are our children. Schools have been closed down and a lot of office buildings have very little or no workers.

Factories or large businesses still have people working there, and there is a possibility of contracting the virus.

Of course, there is. Viruses are spread between people.

So, what do we have to do?

We have to take responsibility for how we are. So often it is easy to blame someone else for how we are feeling. This isn't the case anymore.

COVID-19 has changed the world for us. Where once we could feel free and easy and go out, mingle with others and travel wherever we want, now that has all changed. What are we going to do?

We need to step back and understand our situation.

Even if others stay isolated and don't go out, that is their way but we also have to take responsibility for our health and safety.

We need to know what is right for us and how to stop the spread of this virus.

Viruses are alive all around us and our bodies can contract them at any time. Some are of course worse than others, and depending on how healthy we are, they can wreak havoc on us.

So, if you are not willing to take the chance, then be careful and stay safe. It won't be guaranteed you don't catch it but the more cautious you are, the better the chance you have.

I watch the health professionals in their masks — both cloth and plastic — fighting for people and I hope they are going to be safe. Viruses take over and infect through the air so none of us is safe.

We can kill the viruses, but it isn't certain it won't be back when someone else pulls it back in. So, stay cautious and be responsible.

One thing I have noticed is that people are friendlier than normal. We are all in the same boat and the more we can recognize that, the more we understand each other's situation.

I go for walks every day and I am surprised how often people now acknowledge me with a pleasant nod or just a hello. It has changed all of us.

So many more are walking in the fresh air and enjoying the exercise. Hope this continues after we are past the pandemic.

So why when we live here in Canada, are we so affected? I can't give an answer to that, but to say we are so active outside doing and going places and we don't even consider what we are doing.

It is strange to stop what we are doing and isolate. So many are complaining they don't want to isolate but to get up and be out there. OK, so what happens when they become ill – are they waiting for someone else to take care of them?

That is the reality of it. Go ahead do what you want but, in the end, you will have to wait for someone to take care of you and what if there is no place in the hospital or if you have to wait to get attention?

So many operations have been called off because there is no place in the hospitals to care for them. What if that is you?

I have been lucky in my medical care but I know I have to rearrange my care to ensure I have time with them.

So, stay responsible and know what you are doing. It is all up to each of us to know what we are doing and getting into. Take care and stay safe even if that isn't necessarily what you want to do.

For now, it is all about that. So, think and care about yourself and others.

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Filmmakers' Olympics: The Steven Spielberg Sprint

by **Joseph A. Monachino**

The last of the Filmmakers' Olympics profiles Steven Spielberg, a legendary American filmmaker.

Born on Dec. 18, 1951 in Cincinnatti, Ohio, Spielberg would spend his formative years as a child in Phoenix, Arizona.

At a young age, he did not have a strong interest in Rock 'N' Roll or sports. But obviously, he had a strong fascination with motion pictures.

"Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) was the movie that he had a profound reaction to. He knew that after seeing this movie, "there was no turning back."

It is shocking to know that he was turned down at the USC film school. Sid Sheinberg, head of Universal Pictures, gave him his first break. He signed a seven-year contract to direct TV movies. He found himself directing Joan Crawford at 20 years old.

"Duel" (1971) was a movie of the week that was a major breakthrough for him. No matter how long he has been directing movies, he feels he gets a more rewarding outcome when he is constantly challenged by being nervous.

The first feature film he directed was "Sugarland Express" (1974). With this feature film debut, as well as all his movies, he reasons that "camera work is directing." He even picks the lens he wants.

The next feature film he directed, Jaws (1975), was the first real summer blockbuster. It was the biggest grossing movie of all time up to that time.

Ironically, he had a knack for creating films that kept being the "biggest grossing movie" of any particular year or of all-time.

Three out of the next four movies he directed were big commercial and critical hits, namely "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (1977), "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (1981) and then the biggest grossing movie again, up to that time, "E.T", (1982)

(His 1979 film, "1941", was a disaster in every sense of the word.)

The first "mature" movie he directed was "The Color Purple" (1985). With this movie, he made a radical departure from anything he had done before.

It did get 11 Oscar nominations, but did not win any. It was looked at as a grave injustice against him, where the Academy simply embarrassed him.

1993 was the year that solidified him as someone who really had a eye for creating successful, story-rich movies.

He directed the biggest grossing movie of that year, "Jurassic Park," and the Best Picture Oscar winner, "Schindler's List". In fact "Jurassic Park" was the first movie to gross a billion dollars.

With "Schindler's List", Spielberg realized it couldn't be "just another movie". It was emotionally, the hardest movie he had ever done.

This movie broke all the rules that he, ironically, had a hand in creating. For instance, it was too structured for story boards. He also didn't use any fancy lenses or camera cranes. In fact, he used a hand held camera himself to do some of the filming.

In my opinion, "Schindler's List" is one of the top 5 movies I have ever seen. It is emotionally entrenching; like no movie I have ever seen. To have the biggest grossing movie and another one as the Best Picture winner in the same year is a record that may never be broken or equaled.

"Jurassic Park" was a seminal film because it was the first time that digitally created characters had been made.

This movie showed Spielberg to be the master of effects shots. He made a movie that had a very good ratio of excitement and fear.

In 1994, he teamed up with David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg to create a new movie studio called DreamWorks. This showed his gumption of working in front of the camera as well as behind it.

His 1998 film "Saving Private Ryan" was a landmark film. He wanted to create a film that was close to the experience of war battle as possible.

He certainly achieved this goal, especially the initial twenty-minute sequence dramatizing D-Day.

He won his second Best Director Oscar for this film. A lot of eyebrows were raised when the film, itself, didn't win for Best Picture.

For Spielberg, movies are his therapy. He directed a string of serious films with a more cynical view of the world with "Amistad" (1997), "Minority Report" (2002), "Munich" (2005), "War of the Worlds" (2005) and "Lincoln" (2012), just to name a few.

The movies he's directed have grossed over $10 billion dollars.

This doesn't include films he's produced, without directing. He has also received countless accolades, with the most distinctive being the Kennedy Centre Honors and the Cecil B. DeMille award given to him by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

He has a vast array of colleagues. But he has a close relationship with people he trusts, most notably Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall, and music composer John Williams.

The most common theme, especially with his Sci-Fi movies, is that alien forces aren't a threat to the human race, but they complement it.

All these facts position Steven Spielberg as a prime contender for the gold medal award in the Filmmakers' Olympics.

I hope you've enjoyed reading this series — to learn more about local film and television in Peel, contact filmfocuspeel@gmail.com.

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Driven to Create - All Things Barns and Fields

While they can take the girl off the farm, it is equally true that you can't shake the farm roots out of her!

All Things Barns And Fields is a loosely compiled body of work from local pastel artist and photographer, ecmunson, who grew up in the Finger Lakes region on a dairy farm. She has been chronicling farms, fields, and barns for the past four decades with her photography and more recently rendering some in soft pastels.

The Kitchener-Waterloo area up near Heidelberg had one spot that she hiked and photographed for close to a decade, an abandoned Old Order Mennonite farm.

"Set way back in from the road, you walked in on the laneway. There were no phone nor hydro lines going back in there with you either. You already had this sense of leaving one era behind you and entering another. And just as you crested a small hill, there in a shallow valley was what was left of a large stone house, crumbling foundations of a barn and small outbuildings, fields, and orchard. A time capsule for me back in the early 1980's, now the rolls of film I shot are such a treasure to mine for those hints of yesteryear and a lifestyle, the family farm, which is fast disappearing."

Today, ecmunson continues to explore the hills of Caledon and Dufferin County to chronicle those glimpses of past years. The intimate nestling of small sheds and outbuildings around the central larger barn or barns in a barnyard holds a particular fascination for her.

While she has memories of playing in the hay mow, granaries, and corn shed as a child, the barnyard encapsulates the heart of industry for a family farm. Out of those structures come the livestock and equipment that represent the livelihood of a family and any hired hands.

Around those hubs of daily chores and seasonal cycles, an entire economic unit hums with activity.

As rural Ontario and vast stretches of land across north America were settled and developed, these barnyards and homesteads, the family farms, became like spokes on a wheel and created the basis for communities and cities to evolve and thrive.

It is farms and families in an area such as Caledon that continue to reach out further into the community to market their products in a vastly different economy now as part of agribusiness.

The piece Old Apple Trees, circa 1982, was shot on the abandoned Old Order Mennonite farm.

It is compelling in its simplicity with a sense of floating free in time. It's soft moodiness at dusk, just as snow was starting to fall, was further enhanced by the moisture already hanging heavily in the air from a late winter thaw.

This has been rendered now as a Limited Edition Giclee print, 11x14 inches on acid-free art paper, as part of her *Archival Collection: Analogue Meets Digital World*.

Old Apple Trees, the matted and framed Limited Edition Giclee print, has just had its first bid in the Dundas Valley School of Art's annual art auction with bids accepted through 10 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 17. Bidders from around the world follow this event and pick up pieces for their art collections.

Along with several fellow and sister members of Latow Photography Art Guild, ecmunson's work was juried into this event, and now hangs for virtual viewing and bidding with 1,200 pieces of art.

"The original hand-pulled print I did of this in my Kitchener-Waterloo darkroom back in the early 1980's hung for six months in 2018 at the Ontario Legislative Assembly's in-camera dining room at Queen's Park. That opportunity to have pieces juried into that venue came from Visual Arts Brampton. A number of us went down to have lunch with our pieces in the "A la Carte" show and even had our MPP, Sara Singh, come down to greet and congratulate us."

Further reflections on why this body of work is important to her and the magnetic pull of countryside vistas so absorbing evoke a considered and passionate response.

"Love of the land, the lifestyle of the family farm, they are such an important part of how strong communities were built! I feel so blessed to have experienced this way of life which is fast disappearing. The roll of those hills, crumbling foundations of barns, the orchards still producing some fruit decades after people moved on – all of that is hauntingly beautiful to me. The land remains, it remembers us, and it gifts us with so much!

Of all the places I've visited this remains one of the most poignant for me as there is such a march of time stamped on its very being. Farmed by people who did not use electricity, then abandoned, now lying fallow again, how long will it be remembered for its inherent natural beauty?

I do feel compelled and driven to document and honour these traditions and valuable parts of our heritage. Family farms are an important part of how Ontario, Canada, all of north America really, was settled.

They need to be remembered as a way of life and for the development of strong families and communities. Ephemeral and Evocative, Enduring Images – that is why I "chase the light" lest they be forgotten."

You can visit ecmunson's website at Studio By Design (studiobydesign.ca) and follow her columns on arts and cultural events in Peel Weekly News.

This piece was written by Nelia Munson, a pen name ecmunson uses for her fiction.

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Driven to Create - A Golden Anniversary Art Auction

Local Peel photographer and member of Latow Photography Guild, ecmunson, has had three of her photographs accepted into the Dundas Valley School of Art's Golden Anniversary [50th] Annual Art Auction which is on through Apr. 17 online at dvsa.ca/art-auction.

With 1,200 pieces of art in this juried online event, local photographers and artists will have their work going "on the block" for several days alongside work from acclaimed artists such as Norval Morriseau.

Her pieces are Old Apple Trees, Hoary Frost, and Dry Stack Stone Fence, lots 1036, 1037, 1038 respectively.

Old Apple Trees, circa 1982, is a Limited Edition Giclee print from ecmunson's Archival Collection: Analogue Meets Digital World.

Her original hand-pulled print of Old Apple Trees hung for six months in 2018 at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's In-Camera dining room at Queen's Park. The other two are digital captures rendered as canvas prints.

She joins several Latow Photography Guild members in their traditional support of the DVSA event as a major fundraiser for its programming.

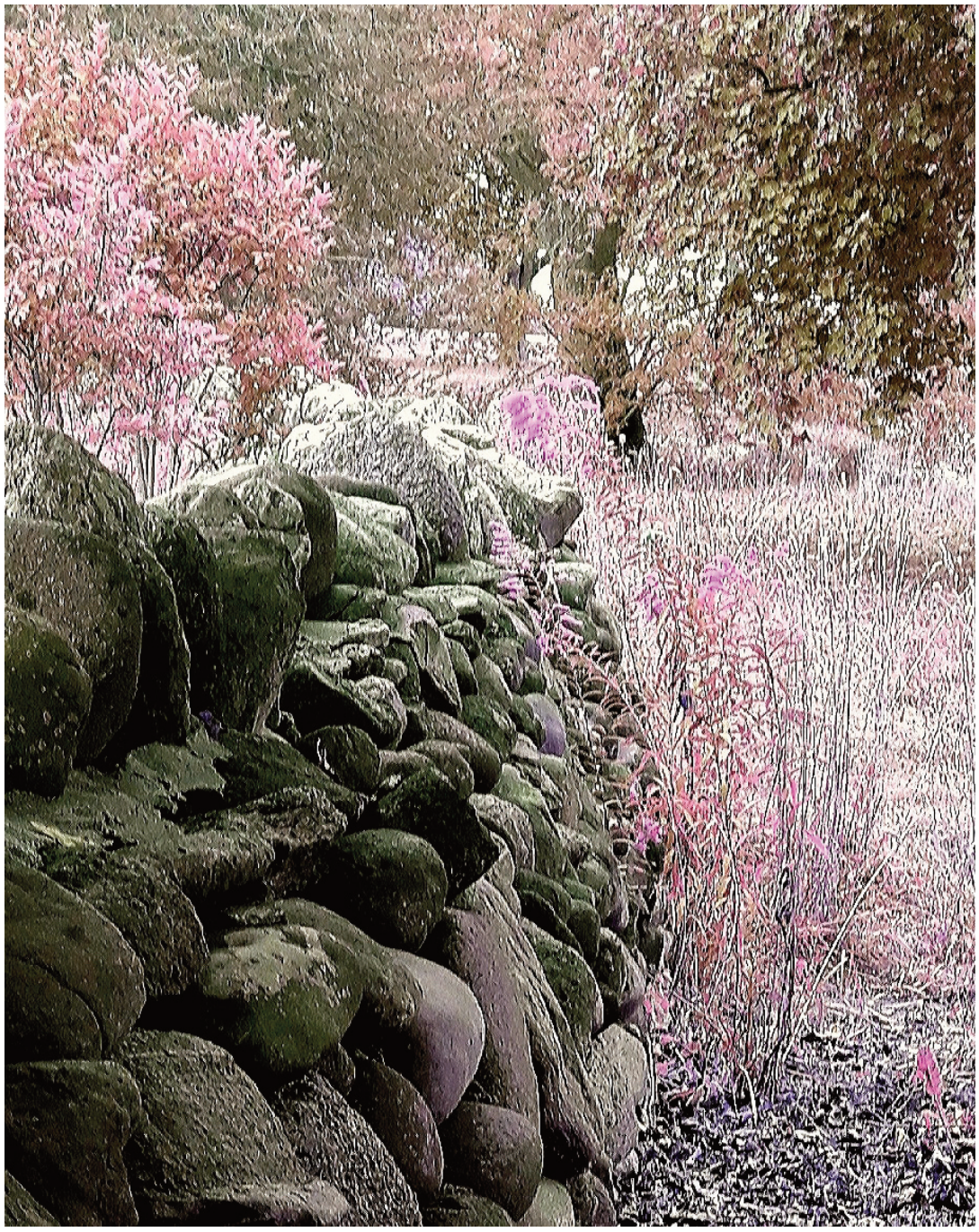
The stature of this annual auction, with its draw of bidders from across Canada and internationally, makes it an equally important venue for showcasing and marketing local and regional artists and artisans.

Along with Monique Campbell and Frank Myers, two other Latow members, Munson has work currently hanging in the Everything Beaux show at Beaux Arts Gallery of Brampton.

Several Latow photographers frequently show at this gem of a gallery in downtown Brampton, which offers themed exhibits, open calls, and has been a participant exhibition site for the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

Involved with several arts organizations in the area, such as Visual Arts Brampton, Beaux Arts Gallery, Credit Valley Artisans, Arts On The Credit, and Headwaters Arts, Munson is honoured to have work accepted in the DVSA's prestigious event.

A regular contributor to arts newsletters and local media with arts and cultural related columns, she recently launched her website, Studio By Design, with its subscriber based Artful Pics BULLETIN.



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Your Weekly HOROSCOPE

KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR YOU THIS WEEK

Week of April 15

Aries

Ganesha says you will experience a great amount of joy this week. This week is a fun-filled week for you as you spend your time on new adventures and facing your fears. You will be surrounded by all of your loved ones this week which will make you very happy and satisfied about where you are in life right now.

Taurus

Your love life seems very beautiful to you this week. You can understand and figure out your partner's genuineness which will make your relationships very better. You will experience a lot of stability in your life. You will be pampered a lot by your partner this week. You feel appreciated for your efforts.

Gemini

Be very patient with some people who try to make you angry this week. You should not lose your cool this week, do not get carried away by their actions and words. They will try to make you really upset and ruin your week, don't fall for provocations, and be consistent with your work. Being by yourself will help you go through the week without any drama this week.

Cancer

Positive energies are very dominant for you this week. You will be appreciated by your family, focus on that a lot this week. Your love life is taking a highly positive turn and you are about to discover new ways to express your sentiments towards the person you love. This week is great for your relationship to flourish into the next big thing.

Leo

You will have a happy week, relaxing and taking care of your health. You might experience a minor stomachache this week, although it is infrequent, it is a sign for you to work on improving your nutritional intake and be physically active. You can start with consulting a nutritionist which will work very well in your favor this week.

Virgo

Make sure your love is directed towards someone grateful for you before moving forward. A lot of success in terms of finances and fame and great health is on your way this week. You might find yourself entering a loving relationship because your genuineness will make your partner fall head over heels in love with you.

Libra

Your business requires your focus this week. Whether you're working yourself or outsourcing this week, you will have to put in a lot of effort, time, and energy into this week. Outsourcing without supervision will not work out for your business this week. You will have to stick to your niche and focus on one project. Hence focus on one thing this week and your week will go amazing.

Scorpio

You will have some free time to yourself this week. Use this time to improve your health both mentally and physically. Take some classes you have been wanting to for a while now. You will have the time of your life this week because your health won't bother you at all. Express your gratitude towards such great health this week and enjoy to the fullest.

Sagittarius

This week you will feel more energized and healthy and ready to take on any task that comes your way. Your health is improving a lot, this week. You will feel like celebrating this week for a lot of reasons as you will go through a very positive shift in your emotions this week.

Capricorn

You will feel as if this week is a little bit challenging. Your life seems to be falling apart, but it is actually the beginning of your growth. You need to focus on becoming the best version of yourself this week from the lessons that you learn. This week you will learn a lot of lessons from tough experiences that will save you a lot of trouble in the future.

Aquarius

You seem to have a lot of luck this week. A very productive week is on its way for you this week. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy. All of the positive energies are protecting your health. Your health will not bother you; at the same time, you should try to maintain this state for a long time. Your health is doing amazing. If you try to accommodate some health care routines like exercise or yoga and start eating more nutritious foods you will feel even better.

Pisces

You seem to be going on a positive streak this week as this week will be a perfect week for you. Relish the positive energy you have been experiencing and be as productive as you can be. If you want to start a new project now is a perfect time. You will feel at a very safe place in your relationship this week and it will progressively get better.

LIFE TIPS WITH LIFE COACH SAM JESSO

Hi Sam:

I am 61. Should I take early retirement next year or hang in there until I am 65?

I retired 8 years ago at the age of 55. There are two parts to this decision. One is the financial and the other is social.

Answer: You need to first decide if you are financially independent (i.e. have enough money). There is plenty of financial advice out there. Much of it is targeted toward professionals. People with a lot of money in the bank and telling everyone else that they shouldn't retire until they have $1 million in the bank and telling you to not take social security until you are 70. You need to evaluate your own financial situation in light of what you expect to need to lead an acceptable lifestyle. To do this you need to make a spreadsheet. You need to track your expenses in detail for about 3 months. You need to consider that there are 3 types of expenses: daily/monthly expenses; periodic but regular expenses throughout the year; and a small emergency fund for unexpected expenses. After that it is up to you to estimate what the financial future is. I can say that for me, I didn't spend as much as I thought I would be spending. Also, you really can't predict the future more than about 5 years. That doesn't mean you shouldn't try through.

The social part of the decision is just as important. Once you are financially independent you can pretty much do whatever you want to do. If you want to continue in your current career and paying job then, by all means, do so. It's what you want to do! You could work part time. You could do some other paying work. Or, and this is my suggestion, you should consider volunteering to help fill you time and help give you some meaning in life. There are an enormous number of volunteer opportunities out there. You have no idea.

Good Luck!
Got a question

Please send it at samjesso@yahoo.com

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
MISSISSAUGA | BRAMPTON | CALEDON
WORLD

'Suspicious' blackout hits Iran's N-site

NATANZ (TIP): Iran's underground Natanz nuclear facility lost power on Sunday just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges capable of enriching uranium faster, the latest incident to strike the site amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers.

As Iranian officials investigated the outage, many Israeli media outlets offered the similar assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges. While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country's military and intelligence agencies.

If Israel caused the blackout, it further heightens the tensions between the two nations already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider West Asia.

It also complicates efforts by the US, Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's programme so it couldn't pursue a nuclear weapon if it chose.

Power at Natanz had been cut across the facility comprised of above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls, civilian nuclear program spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told Iranian state television.

"We still do not know the reason for this electricity outage and have to look into it further," Kamalvandi said. Fortunately, there was no casualty or damage and there is no particular contamination or problem." Asked if it was a technical defect or sabotage, Kamalvandi declined to comment.

Malek Shariati Niasar, a Tehran-based lawmaker who serves as spokesman for the Iranian parliament's energy committee, wrote on Twitter that the incident was very suspicious, raising concerns about possible sabotage and infiltration. He said lawmakers were pursuing details of the incident as well.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, which monitors Iran's program, said it was aware of the media reports, but declined to comment.

Iran also blamed Israel for the killing of a scientist who began the country's military nuclear program decades earlier. AP

Underground centrifuges facility

Natanz was largely built underground to withstand enemy airstrikes It became a flashpoint for Western fears about Irans nuclear programme in 2002, when photos showed Iran building its underground centrifuges facility Natanz suffered a mysterious explosion at its advanced centrifuge assembly plant in July that authorities later described as sabotage. AP

Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif blames Israel for Natanz incident, vows revenge: TV

DUBAI (TIP): Iran blames regional arch-foe Israel for Sunday's incident at the Natanz nuclear site and will take its revenge, state TV quoted Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as saying on Monday.

Iranian authorities described the incident a day earlier as an act of "nuclear terrorism" and said Tehran reserves the right to take action against the perpetrators.

Iran and world powers held what they described as "constructive" talks last week aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran that Washington abandoned three years ago.

"The Zionists want to take revenge because of our progress in the way to lift sanctions ... they have publicly said that they will not allow this. But we will take our revenge from the Zionists," Zarif was quoted as saying.

Multiple Israeli media outlets have quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying that the country's Mossad spy service carried out a successful sabotage operation at the Natanz site, potentially setting back enrichment work there by months. Israel has not formally commented on the incident.

The Natanz uranium-enrichment site, much of which is underground, is one of several Iranian facilities monitored by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told a news conference on Monday that the Natanz incident could be considered as an "act against humanity", adding that it had caused "no contamination or casualties" at the site.

"Our nuclear experts are assessing the damage but I can assure you that Iran will replace damaged uranium enrichment centrifuges in Natanz with advanced ones," Khatibzadeh said.

A senior U.S. administration official said Washington had no involvement in the incident. "We have nothing to add to speculation about the causes," the official said. Reuters

Britain mourns Prince Philip; leaders honour service to Queen

LONDON (TIP): Britain mourned the death of Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, on Friday as the BBC interrupted scheduled programming to broadcast the national anthem, God Save the Queen.

The flag at Buckingham Palace, the queen's residence in London, was lowered to half-staff after the announcement of Philip's death. The Royal Family's website featured a black-and-white portrait of the prince, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Philip earned the affection of generations here in Britain, across the Commonwealth and around the world."

"Like the expert carriage driver that he was, he helped to steer the royal family and the monarchy so that it remains an institution indisputably vital to the balance and happiness of our national life."

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, was among the first to offer his condolences, noting Philip's

long record of public service, first as a naval officer during World War II than during more than 70 years of marriage to the queen.

He will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary commitment and devotion to The Queen, Starmer said in a statement.

For more than seven decades, he has been at her side. Their marriage has been a symbol of strength, stability and hope, even as the world around them changed most recently during the pandemic. It was a partnership that inspired millions in Britain and beyond. AP

21 miners trapped after Xinjiang coal mine accident: Official media

BEIJING (TIP): Eight miners have been rescued and 21 remain trapped in a coal mine that flooded in northwest Chinas Xinjiang region, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday, citing a local emergency department.

A part of the mine flooded leading to power outages just after 6 pm (1000 GMT) on Saturday when 29 miners were working at the mine located in Xinjiangs Hutubi county, the report said.

In a separate report, state media outlet Global Times said 12 of the miners who remain trapped have been located in the mine as of Sunday and are expected to be rescued, while a further nine workers have not been located.

Chinese mines are among the deadliest in the world.

Ten gold miners were confirmed dead in January following an explosion in a mine in Chinas coastal Shandong province. In December, 23 people were killed after being trapped in a mine in the southwestern city of Chongqing. Three months earlier, 16 people died in a separate coal mine in the same area. Reuters

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
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COVID-WORLD

Coronavirus variants spread leads to surge of new cases in Canada

TORONTO (TIP): The rapid spread of more contagious Covid-19 variants is believed to have driven a devastating third wave in Canada.

As of Saturday, April 11, afternoon, a total of 30,108 variant of concern cases have been reported across Canada, including 28,624 B.1.1.7 variants, 1,133 P.1 variants and 351 B.1.351 variants, according to CTV.

As of Saturday afternoon, Canada reported 5,986 new cases of Covid-19, bringing the cumulative total to 1,051,246, including 23,282 deaths, according to CTV.

"Although B.1.1.7, which is now confirmed in all provinces and two territories, continues to account for the majority of variants of concern in Canada and has likely replaced the original virus in some areas, there has been a concerning rise in P.1 cases in recent weeks," Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, said in a statement on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Early evidence suggests that the P.1 variant may reduce the effectiveness of vaccines, making it even more important to control its spread," Tam added in the statement.

The number of confirmed variant cases in Canada has skyrocketed in recent weeks, rising from about 2,000 a month ago to over 30,000 as of Saturday afternoon and counting, with more than 90 per cent of those being the B.1.1.7 variant first identified in Britain.

The P1 variant first discovered in Brazil is also on the rise in Canada, with cases increasing to more than 1,100 as of Saturday afternoon, mostly in the populous provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta.

Meanwhile, the B.1.351 variant first found in South Africa is also picking up steam, with more than 350 cases identified in the country.

"The race between the vaccine and the variants is at a critical point," Tam said. "It is clear that we need stronger control to combat variants of concern that are driving rapid epidemic growth in many areas of the country."

Younger Canadians are being impacted harder in the third wave, Tam said, with infection rates highest among those aged 20 to 39 and a rise in the number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions in those under 60.

The fact is Canada's third wave of Covid-19 is showing no signs of slowing down as the vaccine rollout gradually ramps up, meaning Canadians need to buckle down until more of us get a shot, Canadian experts said.

They added that Canada's slower vaccine rollout means our third wave could last into June.

Altogether, 7,569,321 vaccine doses have been administered as of Friday, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 135.8mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): In its latest update on Monday, April 12, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 135,855,351 and 2,934,981, respectively.

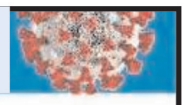
The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 31,196,121 and 562,064, respectively, according to the CSSE.

Brazil follows in the second place with 13,482,023 cases and 353,137 fatalities.

The other countries with more than two million confirmed coronavirus cases are India (13,358,805), France (5,119,585), Russia (4,589,209), the UK (4,384,610), Turkey (3,849,011), Italy (3,769,814), Spain (3,347,512), Germany (3,012,158), Poland (2,574,631), Colombia (2,536,198), Argentina (2,532,562), Mexico (2,280,213) and Iran (2,070,141), the CSSE figures showed. In terms of deaths, Mexico comes in the third place with 209,338 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 50,000 are India (169,275), the UK (127,331), Italy (114,254), Russia (101,282), France (98,909), Germany (78,425), Spain (76,328), Colombia (65,889), Iran (64,490), Poland (58,421), Argentina (57,779), Peru (54,669) and South Africa (53,322).

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL		INDIA	
Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
135,855,351	2,934,981	1,35,27,717	1,70,179

Easing lockdown could lead to 3rd Covid-19 wave in UK: Scientists warn govt

LONDON (TIP): British scientists have warned that the British government is risking a third wave of Covid-19 by easing the lockdown too soon, local media reported.

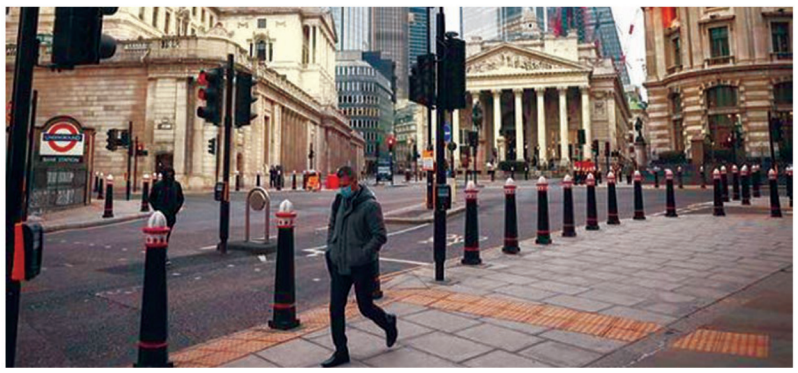
"There are areas in West Yorkshire, the Black Country and other regions that still have high infection rates. However, many people there cannot afford to self-isolate. We need to tackle that issue urgently or the virus will come back again," Leeds University medical school Associate Professor Stephen Griffin told the Observer on Sunday.

"It's worrying. There are far too many virus hotspots and not enough attention being paid to controlling infections that might spread from them," said Griffin, Xinhua news agency reported.

Professor Lawrence Young of Warwick medical school said: "The test, trace and isolate system that is supposed to contain outbreaks has not worked well, and even when people test positive, they are not isolating. We need a properly funded system for quarantining infected people. We don't have that and that raises the risk we could head back into trouble again quite quickly."

The scientists made their remarks as Britain is poised to partly ease the current lockdown restrictions, the third of its kind since the start of the pandemic in the country, on Monday.

From Monday, non-essential shops will reopen and pubs and restaurants will reopen outdoors at a time when Britain moves to step two of the roadmap out of the Covid-19 lockdown.



Meanwhile, hairdressers and barbers as well as gyms can reopen, along with zoos, theme parks, libraries and community centres.

Experts have warned that despite progress in vaccine rollout, Britain is "still not out of the woods" amid concerns over new variants and the third wave of pandemic on the European continent.

More than 32 million people have been given the first coronavirus vaccine jab, according to the official figures.

The estimated coronavirus reproduction number, also known as the R number, in England is unchanged at between 0.8 and one, according to the latest official data.

It means that, on average, every 10 people who have coronavirus will infect between eight and 10 others.

Government advisory scientists said the situation is too variable in some regions to produce a Britain-wide R rate, but the number is believed to be above one in some parts of the country, which means the outbreak could grow exponentially.

To bring life back to normal, countries such as Britain, China, Russia, the United States as well as the European Union have been racing against time to roll out coronavirus vaccines.

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
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BOLLYWOOD

Akshaye Khanna to make his digital debut

Akshaye Khanna is all set to make his debut on OTT with the ZEE5 film titled State of Siege: Temple Attack. Produced by Contiloe Pictures, the film will be based on the 2002 attack at Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Over 30 people lost their lives in the attack and more than 80 were left injured. The National Security Guard (NSG) pinned down the terrorists and brought the situation under control. The film comes after the platform's re-telling of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in State of Siege: 26/11.

Akshaye will be seen playing the role of a special task force officer, who will be in charge of the mission. Excited about donning the uniform in the film, Khanna in a statement shared, "To be able to wear 'the uniform' without taking the oath of the ultimate sacrifice -- this is a privilege that only an actor is afforded. My only focus during the making has been not to disrespect that privilege.

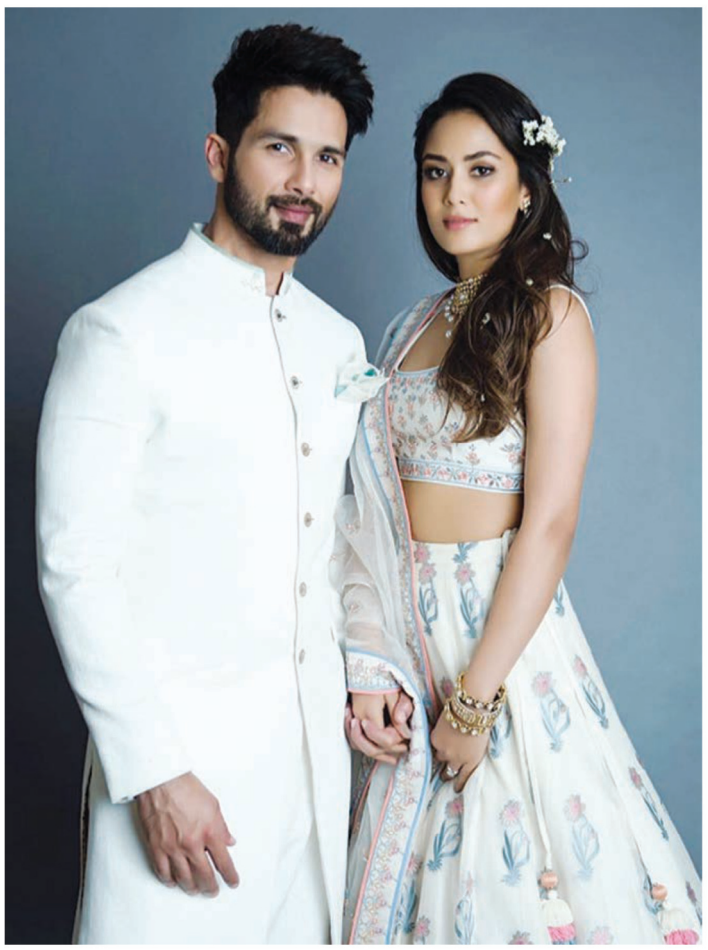
Shahid Kapoor gets flirty with 'Pretty' wife Mira

Actor Shahid Kapoor never leaves an opportunity to shower love on his wife Mira Rajput. At various occasions, the Kabir Singh actor has lit up the social media space with his flirty and mushy posts for wife Mira that leave netizens gushing over this couple. Recently, once again, Shahid put his flirty side on display as he dropped a sweet comment on Mira's latest skincare video and well, it has surely caught the attention of netizens. The sweet remark on his wife's appearance has sent fans into a frenzy.

Recently, Mira shared a video on her Instagram handle about going on a fast for skincare and health benefits. Seeing his wife talk about skincare routine and more, the Kabir Singh actor could not resist from dropping a sweet comment on Mira's post. Shahid wrote, "Why would someone that pretty even need a cleanse." Along with it, he dropped a two hearts emoticon and a heart eyes emoji. Seeing his comment, fans were left in awe of his way of flirting with his wife.

This is not the first time that Shahid has gone all out to shower love on Mira. Previously too, he has reacted to her posts and left fans gushing. Mira too reciprocates the gesture and shares mushy posts for Shahid. Not just this, in a recent "Ask Me' session on Instagram, Mira revealed several things she loves about Shahid and even picked between his characters from films Udta Punjab and Kabir Singh. Not just this, when the gorgeous star wife was recently missing Shahid as he was away, she shared a special musical cover of Lucky Ali's song 'O Sanam' and wrote, "Missing you @shahidkapoor."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shahid will be seen in Jersey with Mrunal Thakur, Pankaj Kapur. The film is all set to release on November 5, 2021. Besides this, he is also working on a web show with directors Raj and DK. It also stars Raashi Khanna.



Abhishek recalls how he fell in love with Aishwarya during Umrao Jaan

Actor Abhishek Bachchan in a recent interview spoke about the beginnings of his romantic relationship with wife Aishwarya Rai. The couple tied the knot in 2007, and they have one daughter, Aaradhya.

While promoting his new film The Big Bull, Abhishek was asked to label his some of his past films as either 'bullish' or 'bearish' career moves. When he was asked to slot Umrao Jaan, he said that it was definitely 'bullish', because 'that's where it all happened'.

Asked if 'mohabbat (love)' happened organically or if he made it happen, Abhishek told RJ Siddharth Kannan, "We'd been friends for a very long time. Aishwarya was one of the first co-stars I'd ever worked with. Our first movie together was called Dhai Akshar Prem Ke, which was technically the second film I started shooting, as soon as I finished Refugee."

He continued, "So she'd been a dear, dear friend, and we'd worked in so many films together. It was a bit of both. The universe conspired to bring us together."

Abhishek's new film, The Big Bull, was released on Thursday on Disney+ Hotstar. The actor played a character inspired by tainted stockbroker Harshad Mehta in the film, which was received poorly by critics.

Aishwarya, in the past, had spoken about how Abhishek proposed to her. In an interview with Filmfare, the actor said that the moment was surreal for her as she was on the sets of her 2008 film, Jodhaa Akbar. Were doing Khawja Mere Khwaja, sitting as a bride, and I am like, oh my god this is surreal, all happening on-screen, off-screen, this is bizarre, she said.

Aishwarya and Abhishek have worked together on numerous films, such as Dhoom 2, Guru and Raavan.

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS
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HOLLYWOOD

Adarsh Gourav loses Best Actor honour to Anthony Hopkins

India's Netflix film, The White Tiger, was nominated for two categories at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) film awards - best actor and best adapted screenplay. However, neither actor Adarsh Gourav, nor Ramin Bahrani won the awards held late Sunday. Sir Anthony Hopkins won the best actor's award for The Father, while Christopher Hampton and Florian Zeller bagged the award for best adapted screenplay for the same film.

The US road movie Nomadland won big, bagging four categories including best film, best actress and best director at the award night. The BAFTA ceremony was held virtually over two nights, with nominees joining in by video, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Chinese director Chloe Zhao's US recession drama Nomadland is about a community of van dwellers. Zhao welcomed stronger representation for women film-makers in comments to journalists afterwards, saying: "It's about time, it's great. I love doing what I do and if this means more people like me get to live their dreams, I'm very grateful".

Nomadland is one of the frontrunners for this month's Oscar awards, with six nominations including for best picture, best director and best actress. Last month it won coveted Golden Globe awards for best drama film and best director.

Welsh actor Sir Anthony Hopkins won the best actor Bafta for The Father about a man suffering from dementia, directed by France's Florian Zeller. The 83-year-old didn't appear during the ceremony but spoke to journalists afterwards, explaining that he had not expected to win and had been holidaying in Wales and painting in his hotel room. "This is wonderful, I mean, this is the first time in my life when I never expected to get this," he said, calling his fourth Bafta a "fun bonus".

Phoebe Waller-Bridge joins the cast of Indiana Jones

If adventure has a nameit must be Indiana Jones! Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag, Solo: A Star Wars Story) will star alongside Harrison Ford, who is returning to the role of the legendary hero archaeologist, for the fifth installment of the iconic franchise.

In addition, the inimitable John Williams will return to score the film, continuing a musical journey which began 40 years ago with Raiders of the Lost Ark. Williams unforgettable Indy soundtracks, packed with all the epic thrills, suspense, romance and excitement that fans have come to expect from an Indiana Jones movie, have become as beloved and familiar as the adventurer-heros signature hat and whip.

I`m thrilled to be starting a new adventure, collaborating with a dream team of all-time great filmmakers," said the film`s director James Mangold. "Steven, Harrison, Kathy, Frank, and John are all artistic heroes of mine. When you add Phoebe, a dazzling actor, brilliant creative voice and the chemistry she will undoubtedly bring to our set, I can`t help but feel as lucky as Indiana Jones himself.

Kathleen Kennedy, Steven Spielberg, Frank Marshall and Simon Emanuel will serve as producers. Indy swings into theaters July 29, 2022.

Naomi Watts to lead remake of Austrian movie Goodnight Mommy

Hollywood star Naomi Watts will topline the remake of Austrian psychological thriller Goodnight Mommy for Amazon Studios. The English-language remake will be helmed by Take Me To The River director Matt Sobel, as per Variety.

Kyle Warren penned the script for the film, which will be produced by David Kaplan, Joshua Astrachan, Valery Guibal and Nicolas Brigaud-Robert. The original movie had attained the status of cult classic when it released in 2014. It was later selected as the Austrian entry for best foreign language film at the Academy Awards.

Starring Susanne Wuest in the lead, the story follows twin brothers who, when sent to stay with their mother, are surprised to find her swathed in bandages from a recent procedure.

As her behaviour grows increasingly erratic and unusual, the twins become convinced she is an imposter.

Their suspicion sets off a roller-coaster of emotional mind games and misunderstandings between mother and her children, that eventually explodes with irreparable and heartbreaking consequences.

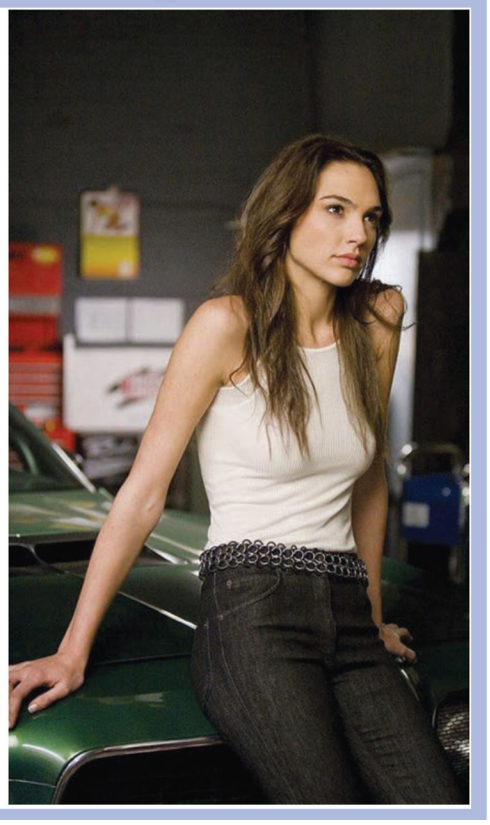
Gal Gadot was threatened by director Joss Whedon on Justice League set: Report

Director Joss Whedon reportedly threatened Gal Gadot's career while conducting reshoots on 2017's superhero team-up film, Justice League. The Wonder Woman actor took the matter to the top, and said that it was addressed there and then.

Whedon has been accused of 'abusive' behaviour on the sets of the film, by actor Ray Fisher, who appeared as Cyborg. His co-star Jason Momoa, who played Aquaman in the film, seemingly corroborated Fisher's claims in an Instagram post.

A new story on The Hollywood Reporter cited sources as saying that the actor and the filmmaker clashed when Whedon 'pushed Gadot to record lines she didn't like, threatened to harm Gadot's career and disparaged Wonder Woman director Patty Jenkins'. She reportedly demanded a meeting with the studio's then-chairman Kevin Tsujihara.

"I had my issues with [Whedon] and Warner Bros handled it in a timely manner," she said in a statement, reacting to the developments. Whedon was brought in as a replacement for original director Zack Snyder, after Snyder was forced to depart production because of a family tragedy. Whedon, known for directing Marvels The Avengers and Avengers: Age of Ultron, was tasked with reshooting several portions of the film.



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HEALTH

Covid pandemic worsened outcomes for kidney disease patients

People with kidney problems were at 40 times higher risk of hospitalisation and death due to the Covid-19 pandemic during the second quarter of 2020, say researchers.

Approximately 800,000 people receive treatment for kidney failure in the United States, either by undergoing dialysis or living with a kidney transplant.

The risks of dying from any cause were 17 per cent and 30 per cent higher during the second quarter of 2020 among patients receiving dialysis and patients with kidney transplants, respectively.

Among patients undergoing dialysis, the rate of Covid-19 hospitalisations peaked between March 22 and April 25, last year.

During this time, patients on dialysis were hospitalized 17 per cent less frequently than typical for reasons other than Covid-19.

"The trajectory of the rate of Covid-19 hospitalisations among dialysis patients tracked the corresponding trajectory in the general population, but was roughly 40 times higher in magnitude," said Eric D Weinhandl, Chronic Disease Research Group, Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute in Minnesota, US.

"This study suggests that the effect of the initial phase of the pandemic on both dialysis and kidney transplant patients has been profound," Weinhandl added.

The study suggests prioritising kidney failure patients in Covid-19 vaccination schedules. The findings are forthcoming in the journal JASN.

Obesity linked to heavy periods, impaired womb repair: Study

Ladies, here is one more reason to reduce your body weight. Obesity is linked to greater menstrual blood loss, which may result from increased inflammation in the womb lining, delaying its repair, according to a study conducted both on women and mice.

The study, led by researchers from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, UK, found a weak but statistically significant association between increasing body mass index (BMI) and more heavy periods in women.

In the mouse study, the team found that after shedding their womb lining, the mice on a high-fat diet showed delayed repair of the remaining womb lining in comparison to mice on a normal diet.

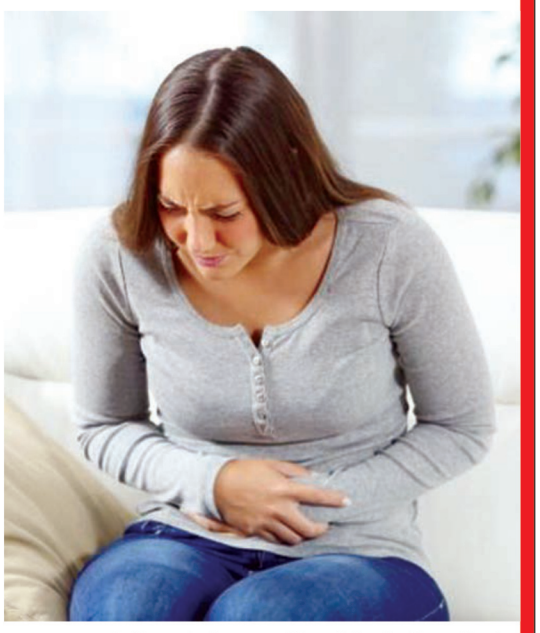
Further examination of womb tissue from the mice indicated that inflammatory factors were also higher in mice with greater body weight. The findings are detailed in the Journal of Endocrinology.

"Our findings suggest that women with obesity may experience heavier periods due to increased local inflammation and delayed repair of their womb lining," said Jacqueline Maybin from the varsity's MRC Centre for Reproductive Health.

The findings suggest weight loss and anti-inflammatory medications may be useful interventions for treatment of heavy periods in women with obesity.

"Although it is difficult to make strong recommendations based on this study alone, a common sense approach would be to offer weight loss support to women with a high BMI experiencing heavy periods," Maybin said.

"However, this should not replace investigation and treatment of other underlying causes for heavy bleeding (eg fibroids, bleeding disorders, cancer). This should form part of personalised treatment recommendations to be considered by both patients and doctors," she noted.



For the study, the team measured the BMI and menstrual blood loss of 121 women, with regular menstrual cycles, who were attending gynaecology clinics and not taking any hormone medications.

Mice were fed a normal diet or a high-fat diet prior to simulation of menstruation. Mice on high-fat diet had significantly higher body weight than those on a normal diet.

Biosealant therapy might help stabilise injury caused by cartilage damage: Study

The findings of a recent animal-based study suggests that a new biosealant therapy may help to stabilise injuries that cause the cartilage to break down, paving the way for a future fix, or even better, begin working right away with new cells to enhance healing.

The study by researchers at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania was published in Advanced Healthcare Materials.

"Our research shows that using our hyaluronic acid hydrogel system at least temporarily stops cartilage degeneration that commonly occurs after injury and causes pain in joints," said the study's senior author, Robert Mauck, PhD, a professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and the director of Penn Medicine's McKay Orthopaedic Research Laboratory. "In addition to pausing cartilage breakdown, we think that applying this therapy can present a surface that is 'sticky' for cells, such as stem cells that are routinely injected into joints to counteract injury. This reinforcing hydrogel could actually synergize with those cells to create a long-term solution."

Articular cartilage is the tissue that covers the ends of bones at joints. It keeps bones from painfully grinding together, and its density and resilience allow it to undergo a lot of forces amid human movement.

Unfortunately, this routine yet complex stresses cause the cartilage to wear down easily - particularly amid some form of injury - and is hard to replace or regrow. This means that it is especially important to keep the remaining cartilage strong and stable.

To that end, Mauck, study lead author Jay Patel, PhD, a former post-doctoral fellow in the McKay Lab and now an assistant professor at Emory University, and their team developed a therapy to use a modified version of hyaluronic acid - a substance naturally produced by the body's connective tissue - that could be introduced to the injured cartilage site. They recognized that this therapy needed to follow a twofold key to preserving cartilage: reinforcement and sealing.

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WOMEN

Ways to get shiny hair at home

Hair tends to lack sheen when it is not healthy. When your hair is well-moisturized and nourished, it has cuticles that lie flat against the hair shaft. When light hits this hair, the smooth surface allows the light to bounce right off, making your hair look shiny. However, with unhealthy hair, the cuticles rise and do not allow light to bounce off your hair. Unhealthy hair also leads to problems like frizz, breakage, split ends, etc.

Using DIY methods to get shiny hair is not only convenient but it also gives you the freedom to tweak the recipe to suit your hair type and texture. Unlike commercial products, you know exactly what is going into your hair care mix. Keep reading to find the perfect hair care solution to make your hair healthy and shiny.

Coconut oil as a rinse

Coconut oil is one of the most popular ingredients in hair care and for good reason. The oil is rich in medium fatty chain acids and has antimicrobial properties that make it an effective solution for nourishing your hair while maintaining scalp health. It is one of the most penetrative oils, which allows it to be seeped right into your hair shaft, nourishing it. It smooths down your hair cuticle, preventing protein and moisture loss by forming a protective barrier around your hair shaft.

While coconut oil can be used in a hot oil treatment, or applied as a deep conditioner, another popular method of use is as an oil rinse. An oil rinse is not only quick, but it also helps keep your hair conditioned for extended periods of time. It keeps your hair protected from factors like moisture loss and the harmful effects of the sun. The oil coats your hair while not weighing it down, ensuring that your cuticles remain unharmed by the sun or a dehydrating environment. In case you have a sensitive scalp, coconut oil as a rinse also helps keep it soothed and cool.

Egg Hair Pack

Eggs are packed with protein, which is what your hair is made up of. Using an egg pack will add instant shine to your hair while nourishing it and increasing its tensile strength. To make a simple egg hair pack for shiny hair, you will need one egg, two teaspoons of honey, and one teaspoon of almond oil. If your hair is extremely long, you can double the amount of ingredients that you are using.

Banana Pack

Bananas are rich in Vitamins A, B, C, and E, which makes it a perfect ingredient to fix damaged hair. These vitamins help nourish your hair while adding shine, and make your hair much softer and manageable. Making a banana hair pack at home is easy. Just get a ripe banana, mash it, and apply it to your hair. Optionally, for extra conditioning, you can add a teaspoon of your favorite hair oil, such as almond or coconut.

Aloe Vera

Since aloe vera is 95% water, it is extremely hydrating, which makes it the perfect ingredient for hair care. It has been used in hair care for a long time as an ingredient that battles dandruff, moisturizes, and boosts hair growth. To use aloe vera in a hair pack, extract 1 cup fresh aloe vera gel from the plant. To this, add a tablespoon of castor oil, which is an ingredient known to control frizz. Apply this mixture to your hair. You can leave it on for 45 minutes or even overnight.

Red wine for facial skincare

Keep wrinkles at bay

- ¢ The antioxidants present in red wine fight ageing by restoring the collagen balance and elasticity of your skin
- ¢ Fine lines and wrinkles will disappear, and your skin will get a second lease of life

Minimise sun damage

- ¢ While it isnt really a sunscreen, red wine, with its antioxidants and amino acids, can help form a natural barrier against the strong UV radiation of the sun Surely you must know that a glass of red wine can help prevent cancer

For radiant skin

- ¢ A red wine massage is your ticket to radiant skin
- ¢ Just spritz some red wine on your face and massage very gently
- ¢ Rinse it off with a cleansing agent like Olay Total Effects 7 in One Foaming Cleanser after 10-15 minutes
- ¢ Also, check out 9 benefits of glycerin for skin whitening here.

To soothe inflammation

- ¢ Once again, the antioxidants in red wine work on inflamed skin
- ¢ Gently dab a few drops on red and inflamed skin, and soothe your agitated complexion

To fight acne

- ¢ You can use red wine for skin that is affected by acne
- ¢ The antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties cleanse skin of oil and impurities, and also reduce further breakouts

As a toner

- ¢ Instead of investing in a cosmetic product, you can use red wine as a toner and get soft, clear and supple skin
- ¢ Gently apply the wine to your face and rinse it off with cold water after 30 minutes

Lighten age spots

- ¢ You can slow down the appearance of age spots and even lighten existing ones with red wine treatment
- ¢ Just apply a few drops to the affected area and wash off after 10-15 minutes.
- ¢ Do this daily until you notice results

As a wine facial

- ¢ Wash your face thoroughly and steam it for 5-10 minutes
- ¢ Make a blend of red wine, fruits such as strawberries or grapes, and your favourite essential oils
- ¢ Apply this to your face and massage it firmly but gently for 10-15 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE

By Tript Arora

Mac & Cheese

This Mac and cheese recipe is a total comfort food. It is an excellent side dish and can be a main dish too when you want a quick and simple dinner. The elbow macaroni is first boiled and later wrapped in a creamy cheesy homemade sauce . It can be made in two versions. The first one is simple. Boil the macaroni and let it drain. Meanwhile make cheesy creamy Bechamel Sauce and mix Macroni in that sauce and Enjoy. The other one is to mix macaroni and sauce and then bake it with bread crumbs in an oven. I will suggest you try the second version. The macaroni in cream and cheese with a layer of crunchy bread crumbs tastes awesome. Do try.

We need

For Boiling Macaroni: 1 Cup Elbow Macaroni, 4 Cups Water, 1 Tsp Salt,

For Making Cheese Sauce: 2 Tbsp All purpose flour (Maida), 2 Tbsp Butter, 500 ml Cold Milk, 1 Tsp Black Pepper Powder, ½ Tsp Nutmeg Powder, 1.25 Cups of Shredded Cheese preferably mix of cheddar and Mozzarella.

Salt ½ Tsp or as required, Bread Crumbs Topping, 1 Cup Bread Crumbs, 2 Tbsp Butter, 2 Tbsp Shredded Mozzarella Cheese.

Here We Go

- ¢ Take 4 cups of water in a pan. Add salt to it. When it starts boiling add one cup Macaroni pasta to it.
- ¢ Gently stir while boiling so that pasta doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan. When pasta is al dente ,(it will take 5 to 7 minutes) drain it in a colander. To stop further cooking of the pasta add cold water to it. Drain it completely.
- ¢ Meanwhile, take a baking dish and coat it with butter, that is if you want to bake it with bread crumbs topping. . Preheat the oven at 180 degrees celsius for ten minutes.
- ¢ Heat a pan and add 2 Tbsp of butter to it. As the butter starts melting and frothing add all purpose flour to it. Keep stirring so that lumps are not formed. You will see the bubbles forming in flour. Saute till the raw smells go off and you can smell a nice aroma. Do not brown it otherwise it will spoil the colour of Bechamel Sauce.
- ¢ When the flour is done, keep the flame to lowest and slowly add cold milk to it in a smooth stream. However keep on stirring the sauce to avoid the formation of lumps. Keep on stirring till you get a thick sauce. Take a spoon and dip the back of the spoon in the sauce. If The sauce coats the spoon, your sauce is done. Remove the pan from flame .
- ¢ After one minute, add shredded cheese to it. Mix well till you get a creamy white sauce.
- ¢ Add black pepper powder and nutmeg powder to it Since there is salt in the cheese, add salt only after tasting the sauce .
- ¢ Add boiled pasta to the sauce and mix well with a spoon till each pasta is coated with cheese sauce. You can also have it like this. But if you prefer to bake then let us follow the next step.
- ¢ Add 2 Tbsp of melted butter to the bread crumbs. Coat them well with butter. Also Mix Tbsp of mozzarella cheese to the bread crumbs.
- ¢ In the greased baking dish pour the macaroni mixed with white sauce. Spread it evenly in the dish. Top it with bread crumbs which we previously mixed with butter and cheese.
- ¢ Put it in the preheated oven. Bake it at 180 degrees celsius for 10 minutes or till you see the golden crust on top.

Total Cooking Time : 40 minutes. Serves : 2

Tips: The perfect boiled pasta is when you can cut it with a knife. It should not be overdone otherwise it will become soggy and won't hold the shape. You can add finely chopped veggies for extra nutrition.

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TRAVEL

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

One of the union territories of India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a breathtaking archipelago located in the Bay of Bengal. The exotic beaches blessed with coral reefs and amazing marine life making the landscape breathtakingly exquisite, cater a perfect beach holiday away from the hustle and bustle of the city life. This group of islands is an empyrean for both nature admirers and adrenaline junkies alike.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a group of 3000 islands, which includes chain of mountains and ridges with moderate heights and gradients that are indeed the major tourist attractions here. The geography at Andaman and Nicobar Islands states that the archipelago comprises of North Andaman, South Andaman, Middle Andaman, and Little Andaman in the Andaman group of islands, as well as Great Nicobar, Nancowry, Car Nicobar, Chowra and Katchal in the Nicobar group of islands. Amongst all the islands, Great Andaman and Ritchie Archipelago are the top tourist destinations with some surreal beaches for the holiday. Andaman features thrilling watersports like snorkeling, sea walks and scuba diving amongst several others in many of islands beaches, hence calling adventure junkies from far and wide. Visitors would also enjoy their time basking in the sun on the white sandy beaches overlooking the azure blue waters while sipping on a refreshing drink. Witnessing the sunrise and sunset is certainly an unbeatable experience, which indeed adds to a memorable beach holiday here. The tourism of Andaman is not only confined to a memorable beach holiday as the archipelago is also blessed with lush flora including evergreen tropical rainforest canopy making a holiday for nature lovers quite a memorable one too. These forests engross an assorted a jumble of Indian, Malaysian and indigenous floral stretches that attract a lot of wildlife lovers. There are more than 2000 varieties of plants found here. These islands are extremely profuse with fauna and around 50 species of forest mammals are found here among which 26 rat species and 14 bat species are primarily notable.

Tourist Attractions

The beautiful and pristine islands are home to number of gorgeous beaches, rich flora and fauna and underwater life. Amongst the top attractions of the islands are Barren Island, which is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia; Neil Island, Havelock Island, Long Island, Cellular Jail, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Anthropological Museum, Indira Point, Car Nicobar, Katchal. The islands are perfect for a holiday and have stunning beaches like Radhanagar, which is amongst the top beach destination in Asia.

Cellular Jail

Cellular village has seen a lot of bloodsheds - it was made by the freedom fighters so that they can be tortured here. Even before the construction of the Jail, the island was a prison of Indias First War of Independence of 1857. This jail reflects one of the murkiest chapters of in the colonial rule's history. It is a mute witness of many heinous acts that British soldiers put on the villagers. In 1906, the jail was completely constructed and was named as Cellular because there cells made for each prison rather than accommodating them in one documentary. Originally, there were seven prolonged, puce-coloured building with a central tower. Later, the building was subsequently damaged, leaving behind three wings intact. In the daily life of prisoners, executions were frequent, and many were made to undergo hard labor. Each cell of the prison is 13.5 feet high 7 feet wide and housed one convict in solitary confinement. Without a doubt, this structure is one of the most historically prominent buildings in India. For this reason and intent, Cellular Jail is a must-visit spot while on the trip to Andaman.

Forest Museum

Located on the outskirts of Port Blair, Forest Museum is a famous attraction for its wide collection related to forest and the assortment of trees. This prominent museum is a must visit place in Port Blair and it is managed by the forest department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The major attractions that are set on display in this museum include the artefacts that are made from timber, gurjan, oak, satin wood and paduak. These displayed artefacts reflect the rich and dense flora found in the islands. The forest department also carries out researches and the outcomes of these research activities can be clearly seen in this museum. To add flavour for the tourists, the museum also incorporates a mini zoo and a small zoological garden inside the building.

Havelock Island

Among the islands of Andaman, the one that is most visited is the Havelock. Spread in an area of 113 sq. km. and located 39 km of north-east of Port Blair, Havelock Island offers a perfect beach vacation in Andaman. The white sand beaches of this congenial and imposing island are fringed with rain-fed forests making them quite a beautiful destinations to see in India. Famous Radhanagar Beach and Elephant Beach are also part of Havelock Island along with Kalapather and Vijaynagar Beach.

In addition to the extraordinary ambiance and hypnotizing tranquility, Havelock Island also proffers enthralling adventure activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling and trekking. Equipped with several recreational and other pleasant services for tourists, Havelock Island is a supreme destination for a vacation in nature's lap.

Neil Island

On the Northeast side of Port Blair, Neil Island is the Vegetable bowl of Andaman, owing to the farming practices that take place here. A long and the immaculate island of Andaman, Neil Island is endowed with exquisite settings, which makes it just right the holiday. For tourists in quest of chilling out after the humdrum schedule, this island is no less than an empyrean. The azure sea and verdant foliage make it treat to the eyes. There are six beautiful beaches in Andaman like Sitapur, Lakshmanpur-I & II, SIR HUGH ROSE ISLAND and Bharatpur - each with the best view of the sun gliding below, and above the horizon. Also, the beaches of Andaman are quite famous for adventure activities like snorkeling and scuba diving. If the idea of adventure activity doesn't sound exciting then do visit the beachside to soak in the cool breezy air, read a book and sip the natural coconut water. Do visit the spectacular corals and reefs in Neil Island.

Corbyn's Cove Beach

Secluded, and unspoilt, the Corbyn's Cove beach is just 8 kilometers from the City center, and a prominent sightseeing place in Andaman. With pleasant blue sea water and lush green coconut palms, the beach allows visitors to relax alongside and enjoy several water sports available on the shore of the beach. Some of the water activities that one can undertake and enjoy over a visit to Corbyn's Cove Beach include scuba diving, surfing, and boating. Further, the beach is also a perfect location for taking pleasure of sunbathing, swimming and surfing. This coconut palm fringed beach is surrounded with a hotel and small offering refreshments and food. From here, tourists can also visit the Snake Island, which claims to have a lot of deadly snakes. The snake island is also known for colourful corals, mesmerizing fishes and rock faces. One can take a motorboat to land at this island.

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SCIENCE & TECH

A tiny particle's wobble could upend the known laws of Physics

Evidence is mounting that a tiny subatomic particle seems to be disobeying the known laws of physics, scientists announced Wednesday, a finding that would open a vast and tantalizing hole in our understanding of the universe.

The result, physicists say, suggests that there are forms of matter and energy vital to the nature and evolution of the cosmos that are not yet known to science.

This is our Mars rover landing moment, said Chris Polly, a physicist at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, or Fermilab, in Batavia, Illinois, who has been working toward this finding for most of his career.

The particle célèbre is the muon, which is akin to an electron but far heavier and is an integral element of the cosmos. Polly and his colleagues an international team of 200 physicists from seven countries found that muons did not behave as predicted when shot through an intense magnetic field at Fermilab.

The aberrant behavior poses a firm challenge to the Standard Model, the suite of equations that enumerates the fundamental particles in the universe (17, at last count) and how they interact.

This is strong evidence that the muon is sensitive to something that is not in our best theory, said Renee Fatemi, a physicist at the University of Kentucky.

The results, the first from an experiment called Muon g-2, agreed with similar experiments at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in 2001 that have teased physicists ever since.

At a virtual seminar and news conference Wednesday, Polly pointed to a graph displaying white space where the Fermilab findings deviated from the theoretical prediction. We can say with fairly high confidence, there must be something contributing to this white space, he said. What monsters might be lurking there?

Today is an extraordinary day, long awaited not only by us but by the whole international physics community, Graziano Venanzoni, a spokesperson for the collaboration and a physicist at the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics, said in a statement issued by Fermilab. The results are also being published in a set of papers submitted to several peer-reviewed journals.

The measurements have about one chance in 40,000 of being a fluke, the scientists reported, well short of the gold standard needed to claim an official discovery by physics standards. Promising signals disappear all the time in science, but more data are on the way. Wednesdays results represent only 6% of the total data the muon experiment is expected to garner in the coming years.

Mars did not dry up all at once, says study

Mars had drier and wetter eras before drying up completely about three billion years ago, says a new study which suggests that the Red Planet did not dry up all at once.

The findings are based on data from NASA's Curiosity Mars rover which continues to explore the base of Mount Sharp on the Red Planet.

"A primary goal of the Curiosity mission was to study the transition between the habitable environment of the past, to the dry and cold climate that Mars has now," said Roger Wiens, a coauthor on the paper and scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he is on the ChemCam team.

"These rock layers recorded that change in great detail," Wiens said.

ChemCam is the rock-vaporising laser that sits on the mast of the Curiosity rover and analyses the chemical composition of Martian rocks.

William Rapin, a researcher with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), led the study published in the journal Geology. Using the long-range camera on ChemCam to make detailed observations of the steep terrain of Mount Sharp, a team including Wiens and other researchers at Los Alamos discovered that the Martian climate alternated between dry and wetter periods before it went completely dry.

Spacecraft in orbit around Mars had previously provided clues about the mineral composition of the slopes of Mount Sharp.

Now, ChemCam has successfully made detailed observations of the sedimentary beds from the planet's surface, revealing the conditions under which they formed.

Moving up through the terrain, Curiosity observed that the types of bed change drastically.

Apple's Find My app now lets third-party locate lost products

Apple has introduced the updated Find My app, allowing third-party products to use the private and secure finding capabilities of Apple's Find My network.

The Find My network accessory programme enables users to keep track of their belongings in the new Items tab within the Find My app. The new products that work with the Find My app from VanMoof, Chipolo and Belkin will be available beginning next week. It will allow users to locate where they left their ride, their earbuds at the gym, their backpack, and so much more.

"For more than a decade, our customers have relied on Find My to locate their missing or stolen Apple devices, all while protecting their privacy," Bob Borchers, vice president of Apple's Worldwide Product Marketing, said in a blogpost on Wednesday.

"Now we're bringing the powerful finding capabilities of Find My, one of our most popular services, to more people with the Find My network accessory programme," Borchers added.

Part of the Made for iPhone (MFi) Programme, the Find My network accessory programme is designed for any accessory developer looking to connect an existing or new product to the Find My network.

Facebook to add labels to satire pages in News Feed

Fighting fake news is a complex job as users sometimes might confuse satirical content of a social media post to be the reality. To make things clearer, Facebook now wants to label certain posts.

The social networking giant said it is already testing a way to give people more context about the Pages they see. The experiment has started for users in the US.

Well gradually start applying labels including public official, fan page or satire page to posts in News Feed, so people can better understand who theyre coming from, Facebook said on Wednesday.

Facebook has not made official why it wants to apply the labels. However, it is not hard to understand why it wants to label satire pages.

According to a report in The Verge, Facebook made attempts to make the context of posts in the News Feed clearer even earlier too.

It started labelling media outlets which are wholly or partially under the editorial control of their government in June last year.

WASAGA BEACH

PEOPLE IN PEEL REGION HAVE HAD A LOVE AFFAIR WITH WASAGA BEACH FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY

Are you a property owner, seasonal/part time resident or perhaps just someone who loves "The Beach" and wish to know what is happening in our once World Famous Beach Resort?

Be Aware! Become Engaged!

What's Happening in "The Beach"?

With little or no public engagement, the current mayor & council are making decisions and spending taxpayers' money.

Changes to the once applauded Downtown Master Plan will effect Wasaga Beach for years to come. Our once famous Main Beach Areas are being sliced up and offered to developers, forever altering our historic beachfront and what it means to you and future generations.

For the love of Wasaga Beach and your tax dollars...
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